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Anfield matchday: picture special
Lucas: Liverpool's elder statesman
Mignolet & Bogdan: keeping it real
PUTTING
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IN PERSPECTIVE
How Danny joined LFC's golden goal club
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FOOTBALL

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CLUB

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A fab front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening and what's about to

A big flag flutters over fans on the Kop ahead of another Liverpool FC matchday. This end of Anfield has become one of the most famous in football through the decades but do you know in which year it was **first built**? Turn to page 98 for the answer.



ANFIELD NEED TO KNOW

Where the redevelopment is at, what's coming next and why, and how it affects matchdays

Following the lifting and positioning of the Main Stand's roof truss, the structure's new upper tier has been taking shape as it's gradually connected to the existing stand – see our picture special on page 86. Upon completion it is set to comprise three tiers, with the upper level seating more than 7,500 spectators on matchdays. Liverpool FC announced the redevelopment of Anfield in December 2014 and plans to increase the overall capacity of the stadium to around 54,000. The project remains on target for completion during 2016/17.

As well technical excellence there is a holistic side to Anfield's ongoing redevelopment, as Mike Gordon, president of Fenway Sports Group, explains: "John Henry [LFC principal owner], Tom Werner [chairman] and I completely share the view that we want the Main Stand expansion to retain the heart and spirit of Anfield and the city of Liverpool itself. When supporters walk the concourses we want them to feel connected to Liverpool's existing buildings and all they represent. Our consultants have walked around the city, studied Liverpool's rich history and what makes it unique, and then incorporated those elements throughout the design.

"The spaces in the new stand have been designed to create a much warmer feel than you would usually find in a stadium. We're pleased with how it's coming together and believe that when we are finished, our supporters and everyone connected to the club will feel the same way.

"The most important lesson we learned is that it is possible to take a hallowed sporting ground, expand and upgrade it with modern facilities and end up with the best of all worlds; a stadium that retains the essence of what made it special for decades while providing an improved experience for fans and an improved competitive opportunity for the club."

The work has inevitably meant some changes to matchdays at Anfield. Access to the ground continues via Walton Breck Road and Anfield Road (the latter's temporary closure pauses on matchdays) but there is currently no pedestrian access via Baltic Street and Bagnall Street. Matchday car-parking locations are the same as last season, while Liverpool FC is operating a temporary hospitality facility in a custom-built marquee off Walton Breck Road. There are no changes to turnstile access in the Main Stand, while the LFC first-team coach takes the same route into the stadium as usual.













THE PIE

How an historic local bakery a few yards from Anfield was re-imagined by a

While Liverpool Football Club's famous home is currently being renovated, another Anfield institution has also undergone a similar process. Mitchell's Bakery stood at 197 Oakfield Road, just yards from the Kop, for nearly 85 years. Now the premises has been modernised and re-named Homebaked, with a range of pies and cakes attracting punters from near and far.

And, in the keeping with the ethos of Bill Shankly, the business is community-run with approximately 60 people playing a part one way or another, from actually producing the food onsite to marketing it online. John Carden, chair of the Homebaked Board, explains how the initiative has taken off: "The Mitchell's name is legendary in this part of the city.

"When the 2012 Liverpool Arts Biennial project took place the council invited an artist to take control of a building and give it a new look. Jeanne van Heeswijk, a Dutch visual artist, saw this old bakery and thought it would be a great place to use. It's flourished ever since."

Homebaked is part of a wider scheme, an associated Community Land Trust. The long-term aim is to build and develop new houses for the local community. "That takes time," John says. "You have to negotiate leases, raise capital and so on. So while that was ongoing it was decided we would re-open the bakery. Some people want you to make quantum-leap style progress, but that's not always possible. Sometimes it has to be done at a slower pace, hence our motto: 'Brick by brick and loaf by loaf, we build ourselves'."

John and his colleagues are hoping the bakery will be the first of many new premises they can get up-and-running in the area. "We want this to be a busy, thriving community. Part of our business model is a shop with housing above, so this [the bakery] is the first test of how it will work, the guinea pig if you like."

Naturally, being located so close to LFC's stadium means matchdays are vital to Homebaked. "That's our cash cow," confirms John, a season-ticket holder at Anfield. "When Liverpool play, our footfall is far, far wider than during the week. We can't make enough pies to satisfy the demand.

"In the end we decided to open a window – we've christened it 'The Pie Hole' – where customers can come to quickly grab a pie and a drink on their way to or from the game. On non-matchdays our customers mainly tend to be locals. We have a postcode-based loyalty card that gives 20 per cent discount to anyone from this part of the city."

In turn any money spent in the shop helps the area. "Every penny goes back into the local community. I think that appeals to our fans, who are generally a savvy group. They understand ideas of togetherness and community spirit. Most social enterprises such as this are driven by











ON KOP

Dutch artist three years ago and rediscovered its matchday mojo



funding. We've had some but we are getting to the stage where we can stand on our own two feet. We are about to break even which, given the area we are in, is phenomenal."

It is the pies in particular which have become Homebaked's signature products and have had customers singing their praises on social networking sites. "Our growth has been organic and word-of-mouth is vital for us," John continues.

"That's why we are very active on Twitter because it's a great way to connect with the supporters who come to the area. They then go and tell their mates who call in when they visit for a game. "

Homebaked's popularity has grown to such an extent that the bakery catered for the VIP area at the Sound City Music festival which took place in Liverpool during the summer. "That shows we are building our reputation. Some of the bands even gave us a shout out on stage, so that helps too."

With a lot of progress already made in a short space of time, Homebaked have further plans to continue their impressive growth."Our next step is to buy a pie-making machine. It's a labour-intensive task, so if we get that sorted then we can increase our production. We've also got different promotions such as 'Pay Day Pie Day' and we would like to offer customers the option of being able to take away a big box of pies that they can have at home. Bit by bit, we are getting there."

Follow the bakery on Twitter **@homebakedA** or check out the website **homebaked.org.uk**.

WINGING IT

There are always two Liver Birds on the city of Liverpool's coat of arms: one in the central shield and one above it, flanked by Neptune and a triton (sea-god). The pair below roost at Everton Library on St Domingo Road, a short walk from Anfield. The building dates from 1896, four years after LFC was formed.



LFC MAGIC MOMENT?

It could be you

New for Anfield matchdays this season is the LFC Magic Moment in which fans are picked at random in the Family Park for a special treat. First up was an awesome surprise for young Reds Thomas and Chloe from Wiltshire: before kick-off they were invited into the stadium with their mum and dad to help the groundstaff put in the corner flags. Then Mateo Espinoza from North Carolina, whose father Kevin is a member of the LFC Raleigh Supporters Club, stood pitchside to watch the players warming up. Dad called it "more than we ever imagined from our first Anfield visit – the experience of a lifetime."





Meet the creators of an LFC fan podcast with a difference

All wrapped up

"When we kicked off *The Anfield Wrap*," explains Gareth Roberts, one half of a creative and charismatic Scouse double-act with a passion for the Reds, "the idea was to take the traditional football fanzine idea and mould it into something new for the internet age. We wanted a website and a podcast that reflected what match-going fans thought about the game and the culture around it – but also different from everything else."

Gareth (left in picture above) and co-producer Neil Atkinson, plus a host of entertaining, intelligent and opinionated contributors on *TAW*, as it's fondly known, have hardly looked back. "From day one we were ambitious with it and we've never stopped working since," he continues. "We put money into a kitty and hired a studio in Liverpool. We had a season-ticket holder in Ian Maloney who was also a graphic designer by day, so we knew we could make it look good. And, with the writers we got on board early on – all regulars at Anfield and matches home and abroad – we felt we could make an impression, even with so many websites and podcasts already out there.

"Looking back to when we started in August 2011, I don't think any of us could have imagined where it has ended up four years on. From starting from scratch with an idea written on the back of a beermat, within a year we had a weekly radio show on CityTalk 105.9FM and that's still broadcasting to this day. We've won awards, too, including the Football Supporters' Federation's Podcast of the Year."

Every month their podcasts attract thousands of listeners, and along the way they've interviewed the likes of Rafael Benitez, Roy Evans, Didi Hamman, Jamie Carragher, Steven Gerrard and John Barnes. "The support from Liverpool fans all over the world has been phenomenal," adds Gareth, "and we've reached a point now where we've been able to kit-out a small office and studio in Liverpool city-centre. The idea is to carry on doing what we do, home and away, but to improve it too – and keep on talking and writing about Liverpool past, present and future.

"It's a dream for everyone involved and shows just how important the club is to its fans. Some weeks we can put out 14 shows and 15 pieces of writing, including immediate after-match reaction, reviews of past seasons and shows about legends that have worn the red, and people still come back asking for more! I'm not sure this would work with any other club. We're unique: I don't think many other sets of supporters can have a bigger place in their hearts for their club than Liverpool fans do and for that reason we are very lucky."

You can find out more at **www.theanfieldwrap.com** and follow them on Twitter **@theanfieldwrap**.



Gareth and Neil at TAW HQ







TICKET TO RIDE

Ireland to Anfield via Anglesey on your own bus – it's a regular journey for these intrepid Liverpool FC fans

For those of us lucky enough to live in or near the city of Liverpool, getting to the match at Anfield usually involves a short journey by car, train or bus. It's simple, something we take for granted.

Others don't have that luxury: they go to greater lengths to see their heroes in action. One such group hail from Ireland. Made up of members from the website Irish Kop, they regularly journey across the Irish Sea to see the Reds play: via a minibus, meeting in Dublin before taking the ferry to Holyhead in North Wales then driving from the Anglesey town to Merseyside.

It all came about in 2010. "Originally it was my idea," says Ger Kane who has a background in the transport industry. "The days of cheap flights were coming to an end as the recession hit. My wife owned a bus for doing some contract-work and I got a quote from the ferry companies for a group trip."

The first outing of the Irish Kop's bus was to see Liverpool host Wigan at home in 2011 (a 1-1 draw). Since then they've repeated that journey on nearly 40 occasions. Ger continues: "A few of us were together at the Euros in Poland and Ukraine and, at about 4am one night, came up with a plan to buy a bus of our own." Within three weeks they'd acquired a 15-seat vehicle for £1,400. "Three o'clock kick-offs suit us perfectly as that ties in nicely with the ferry times. Our trips have proved very popular. The bus has even been nicknamed 'The Fun Bus' and we were featured on the Premier League World programme on Sky a few years ago."

Each trip has a designated driver. "We have a pool of four or five lads who take turns to drive. In return we will pay for their match ticket and they get to travel for free." With their tight schedule they can't afford any delays along the way. "It's not just Anfield we try to get to," Kane points out. "Sometimes we go to see Liverpool at places like Wigan or Villa, grounds that are still within a nice driving distance from Holyhead. On the way to Villa Park one year we had an oil-cooler problem but it didn't hinder us. My father-in-law is from Wolverhampton and he got it repaired while we were at the game. There was a puncture on another trip but we just about made it. Touch wood, we haven't had any major issues or ever been late yet."

When all goes to plan the group are usually to be found in the *Twelfth Man* or *Albert Pub* prior to kick-off. "It's always a great day-out. I'm sure everyone would agree that one of the best parts of going to away games is the journey with your pals. We get that experience going to both home and away matches."

The most recent visit was for the fixture against West Ham United at the end of August. Obviously that day didn't quite go to plan for Brendan Rodgers' side with the East Londoners taking the points. Yet, no matter what the result, the Irish Kop lads soon have to be on the road again as they begin the journey home. "The atmosphere on the bus is always good," says Ger. "If they lose, we have plenty of time to get over it. If they win, we celebrate. Either way, we enjoy ourselves."



IRISH KOP ITINERARY

5.30am: Wakey wakey
7.15am: Meet at ferry terminal in Dublin
7.30am: Board the ferry for Holyhead
8.05am: Ferry leaves Dublin
11.30am: Ferry arrives in Holyhead
1.30pm: Arrive at Anfield
3.00pm: The game kicks off
4.45pm: Final whistle
11pm: Leave Liverpool for Holyhead
2.30am: Ferry departs Holyhead
5.45am: Arrive back in Dublin
7.00am: Get home and get some kip!







What's it like to be a matchday mascot at Anfield? One young visitor got it all on film…



Field of

Talk about exclusive access. These behind-the-scenes images from Liverpool FC's first home game of season 2015/16 come from a special 'mascot-cam' worn by AFC Bournemouth's matchday mascot Oliver and posted on the South Coast club's official YouTube channel. It was also Cherries fan Oliver's



















dreams

birthday and he celebrated earlier in the day by visiting The Liverpool FC Story interactive museum before leading the two teams out onto the hallowed Anfield pitch along with LFC mascots Jack and Ethan. He then shook hands down the line with all the Liverpool players and warmed up with his Bournemouth heroes. Not bad for a night's work.









LOVE SUPREME

The ball may be oval but Anfield is home for St Helens forward Kyle Amor

Not many Liverpool FC fans spend their lives trying to get to Old Trafford, but at least Kyle Amor has a decent excuse for doing so.

He plays at prop forward for St Helens Rugby League Club and every October the showpiece Super League Grand Final is held down the road in Manchester. Kyle was part of the Saints side that beat bitter rivals Wigan 14-6 in last year's contest, and with Saints in the play-off semi-finals (at the time of writing) he's hoping to be back at Old Trafford on Saturday 10 October but admits that as a lifelong Red it's strange to aspire to play there.

"In my career the pinnacle is getting to Old Trafford and trying to win the Grand Final, something we were lucky enough to do last season. In a work sense that's the goal, but looking at it from a footballing point of view then yeah, it's quite funny to be wanting to go there as a Liverpool fan. To be honest the Grand Final is the only day we get to feel like Premier League footballers. Playing in front of 70,000 every other week must be amazing."

Born in Whitehaven, Kyle played for Leeds Rhinos and Wakefield Wildcats before joining Saints for the 2014 season. Not only did that see him become a Super League champion, it

"Hearing YNWA makes the hairs on the back of your neck stand up"

TACKLE THESE...

With the Rugby World Cup underway and the Super League Grand Final being held this month we've found six Reds rugby connections...

Walk on: St Helens' legendary scrum-half Bobbie Goulding scored more goals at Anfield wearing a no7 shirt than Nigel Clough, Harry Kewell and Robbie Keane: he got 12 in a couple of rare Super League matches in L4. He's also a big Red who went to his first match against Spurs in 1979 – "It's surreal to think I've played on that sacred ground" – and in December 2012 was one of a group who did a 96-mile Red Rose Walk from Hillsborough to Anfield to raise funds for the HFSG and HJC. "We wanted to do something in memory of the people who lost their lives."

Wigan's win: on the same October 1991 night that Liverpool were losing 1-0 at Kuusysi Lahti in Finland, Anfield was hosting the World Club Challenge Final between Wigan and Aussie champions Penrith Panthers. Over 20,000 turned up and saw Frano Botica kick the Wiganers into an 8-0 lead before tries from Sam Panapa and David Myers went on to secure a 21-4 victory. And no, they didn't have Stevie Pie-way on the wing...

World Cup warm-up: you've probably noticed that the Rugby Union World Cup is on at the moment, but England coach Stuart Lancaster didn't prepare for the tournament in the same way Sir Clive Woodward did in 1999. Three weeks before taking on the All Blacks at Twickenham, England played a Premiership All Stars XI in front of 7,500 at Anfield and cantered to a 67-14 win with Austin Healy touching down four times.

Oh when the Saints: Kopites belt out 'Oh When the Reds!' every other weekend but in 1997 and 1998 there were choruses of 'Oh When the Saints!' ringing around Anfield as St Helens played Castleford Tigers and Warrington Wolves. Neil Ruddock dressed up in a Saints kit (right) alongside Bobbie Goulding and Vila Matautia to promote the Castleford game and 12,329 turned out to see a 42-16 win for the men in the 'Red Vee' with the late Steve Prescott on the scoresheet. Warrington were beaten 36-14 twelve months later in front of 10,058, but the Saints haven't gone marching in at Anfield since.

Around the grounds: there are 12 Super League grounds and Liverpool have played at three of them, winning on all of their first visits. In 1999 Gerard Houllier's men won an FA Cup tie 2-0 at Huddersfield's John Smith's Stadium (formerly the McAlpine Stadium) with even Dominic Matteo scoring. Wigan Athletic's promotion to the Premier League in 2006 saw a first visit to the JJB Stadium (now the DW Stadium) with Yossi Benayoun getting the winner





In rugby league action.



At Anfield with team-mates Atelea Vea and Adam Quinlan

got him closer to another big passion in his life: Liverpool FC. "The 2-0 win against West Ham last season [January 2015] was my first-ever game at Anfield. It was a brilliant experience. When I first walked into the Paddock, with it being quite an old area of the ground, it made me think about how many people had walked through those turnstiles down the years.

"I love that about Anfield: it makes you think about the great players and games the Liverpool fans have seen. There are only three or four grounds in Super League now that still have such a traditional feel because so many clubs have new stadiums. Don't get me wrong, we're very lucky to be playing at Langtree Park here in St Helens, but the old grounds almost have hidden ghosts from time gone by. It feels like that at Anfield."

Kyle's hairy appearance makes him one of the most instantly recognisable players in the game – he was inundated with tweets when he was spotted in the Anfield crowd when a substitution was made – but it was the follicles elsewhere on his body that reacted to *You'll Never Walk Alone*. "To hear the Kop belting out *You'll Never Walk Alone* was amazing. It made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up and made we want to go back more and more. I've been lucky enough to return a few times and the seat I sit in is very close to the Liverpool bench. As a professional sportsman you kind of look at things in a different way so it is really interesting to watch Brendan Rodgers shouting instructions and making different gestures to the players close up."

Kyle, who watched the glory of Istanbul in a Whitehaven pub the night before he turned 18 – "It was packed and went from deathly silence at half-time to absolute carnage by the end" – says there is plenty of football-related banter in the Saints dressing-room too.

"Jordan Turner and Tommy Makinson are big Man United fans and Paul Wellens is a Man City fan. We've also got Louie McCarthy-Scarsbrook who is a huge Millwall fan although he hasn't got much of a leg to stand on when the banter starts flying!

"Our coach Keiron Cunningham is also a Liverpool fan. He tells a story about being offered a ticket for Istanbul the night before and trying to convince Daniel Anderson [Saints coach in 2005] to let him go but being told he couldn't because there was a big game against Leeds that weekend."

If all has gone to plan for Kyle Amor and Saints that banter will continue in an Old Trafford dressing-room on 10 October.

and later that year travelling Kopites sang 'You should've stuck to the rugby' during a 4-0 win down the M58. Hull's KC Stadium was also ticked off in 2009 when Rafa Benitez's side won 3-1 with a double from Dirk Kuyt having us wondering if KC stood for Kuyt's Curls...

Warrington winners: LFC have also played at three other Super League grounds, but not at first-team level. St Helens' Langtree Park ("A good stadium, nice and big," says Jordon Ibe) has been home to LFC's U21s since it opened in 2012 and initially hosted NextGen Series games with a 3-1 win against Inter Milan being memorable. The Reds 'ressies' have also played Everton at Widnes Vikings' Select Security Stadium (home to Liverpool Ladies since 2014) and in 2007/08 won the Premier Reserve League North while based at Warrington's Halliwell Jones Stadium with 10,546 attending a 2-0 win against Man Utd. Xabi Alonso, Daniel Agger, Martin Skrtel, Harry Kewell, Gary Neville, Gerard Pique and Danny Welbeck all played.

Tweets of the month

The Official LFC Story
@LFCHistoryShow
Stand out signing so far for us. Grafts hard and looks a very decent prospect and footballer @DannyIngs #LFC



David Fairclough
@Dfairclough12
On the way to Old Trafford with the Irregulars! YNWA

Jordan Henderson
@JHenderson
Very disappointed and frustrated with the injury setback but will work hard to be back as quickly as possible

Robbie Fowler
@Robbie9Fowler
Delighted to raise funds for the brilliant @ClaireHouse by taking on MUFC at golf. Bid here for some great #LFC stuff www.thebusbyshanklycup.co.uk/lfc-auction



Didi Hamann
@DietmarHamann
The only time you will see me #BleedForEngland @GiveBloodNHS

OptaJoe
@OptaJoe
200 - Lucas makes his 200th Premier League appearance today, only three South Americans have made more (Tevez, A.Valencia & Solano). Samba.

Mamadou Sakho
@mamadousakho3
So happy to extend the adventure with Liverpool!! #LFC #YNWA



WHAT'S



ON: OCT

CAPITAL GAINS?

The Reds make the trip to London for a couple of Saturday lunchtime kick-offs. First up is a visit to Tottenham Hotspur on 17 October, while a busy month concludes with a date at Stamford Bridge on 31 Oct. Liverpool picked up positive results in the corresponding fixtures last season, winning 3-0 at White Hart Lane and holding Chelsea to a 1-1 draw in May.

EURO DATES

Anfield will host two UEFA Europa League matches in October. Swiss side FC Sion start the month's schedule with a visit on 1 October before Russian outfit Rubin Kazan make their first appearance in L4 three weeks later. The Reds have played Sion on two previous occasions with the sides meeting in a European Cup Winners' Cup second-round clash in October 1996. After a 2-1 win in Switzerland, Roy Evans' men romped to a 6-3 win in the return to complete an emphatic 8-4 aggregate victory.


Robbie's Reds v Sion back in 1996

ITALIAN JOB

Liverpool Ladies also have a couple of dates in Europe during October as reward for winning the FA WSL last season. They will play Italian Cup winners Brescia Femminile in the UEFA Women's Champions League round of 32. The first leg takes place in Lombardy on Wednesday 7 October with the return being held at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes seven days later on the 14th (6.30pm kick-off).



AN EVENING WITH RUSHIE

Liverpool FC supporters can spend a night in the company of the club's greatest goalscorer and have a picture with the European Cup trophy when Anfield hosts an evening to remember on Friday 23 October. Guests will enjoy a delicious three-course meal while listening to Ian Rush's memories of 15 glorious years with the Reds before having the opportunity to have photographs taken with the legendary no9 and the European Cup he helped the club lift in Rome in 1984.

Rushie was the club's all-time record goalscorer and one of the most clinical finishers in the history of European football. The lean, mean goalscoring machine netted the first of his record-breaking 346 strikes in 1981 and was still knocking them in 15 years later. He scored an astonishing 47 goals in season 1983/84 and his tally of five FA Cup final goals is yet to be bettered. To book tickets for this event, call 0151 264 2222 or go online to liverpoolfc.com/events.

Birthdays and anniversaries

Bruce Grobbelaar 58 on 6 October
Chris Lawler 72 on 20 October
Roy Evans 67 on 4 October
Sami Hyypia 42 on 7 October
Larry Lloyd 67 on 6 October
Glenn Hysen 56 on 30 October
Willie Stevenson 76 on 26 October
Paul Ince 47 on 21 October
Ian Rush 54 on 20 October
Roberto Firmino 24 on 2 October
Paul Walsh 53 on 1 October
Ronny Rosenthal 52 on 11 October
David Johnson 64 on 23 October
Milan Baros 34 on 28 October
Lloyd Jones 20 on 7 October
Lucy Staniforth 23 on 2 October
Asisat Oshoala 21 on 9 October

22 years since young striker Robbie Fowler scored all five goals in Liverpool's 5-0 League Cup win over Fulham on 5 October.
28 years since attacking midfielder Ray Houghton joined Liverpool FC on 19 October.
41 years since full-back Phil Neal signed for the Reds on 9 October.
93 years since Harry Chambers scored a hat-trick in a 5-1 Merseyside derby win over Everton at Anfield on 7 October.
123 years since Matt McQueen and his brother Hugh made their debuts in LFC's first FA Cup tie at Anfield on 29 October.



FIXTURE LIST 2015/2016

AUGUST
Sun 9 Stoke City (A) 1-0
Mon 17 AFC Bournemouth (H) 1-0
Mon 24 Arsenal (A) 0-0
Sat 29 West Ham United (H) 0-3

SEPTEMBER
Sat 12 Manchester United (A) 1-3
Thu 17 Bordeaux (A, Europa Lge M1) 1-1
Sun 20 Norwich City (H, 4pm) 1-1
Wed 23 Carlisle United (H, COC 3) 1-1
(won 5-2 on penalties)
Sat 26 Aston Villa (H) 3-2

OCTOBER
Thu 1 FC Sion (H, Europa Lge M2, 8.05pm)
Sun 4 Everton (A, 1.30pm)
Sat 17 Tottenham Hotspur (A, 12.45pm)
Thu 22 Rubin Kazan (H, Europa Lge M3, 8.05pm)
Sun 25 Southampton (H, 4.15pm)
Wed 28 Bournemouth (H, COC 4, 7.45pm)
Sat 31 Chelsea (A, 12.45pm)

NOVEMBER
Thu 5 Rubin Kazan (A, Europa Lge M4, 6pm)
Sun 8 Crystal Palace (H, 4pm)
Sat 21 Manchester City (A, 5.30pm)
Thu 26 Bordeaux (H, Europa Lge M5, 8.05pm)
Sun 29 Swansea City (H, 4.15pm)

DECEMBER
Wed 2 Capital One Cup 5
Sat 5 Newcastle United (A, 3pm)
Thu 10 FC Sion (A, Europa Lge M6, 6pm)
Sat 12 West Brom Albion (H, 3pm)
Sat 19 Watford (A, 3pm)
Sat 26 Leicester City (H, 3pm)
Mon 28 Sunderland (A, 3pm)

JANUARY
Sat 2 West Ham United (A, 3pm)
Wed 6 Capital One Cup S-F 1
Sat 9 Emirates FA Cup 3
Tues 12 Arsenal (H, 8pm)
Sat 16 Manchester United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23 Norwich City (A, 3pm)
Wed 27 Capital One Cup S-F 2
Sat 30 Emirates FA Cup 4

FEBRUARY
Tues 2 Leicester City (A, 8pm)
Sat 6 Sunderland (H, 3pm)
Sat 13 Aston Villa (A, 3pm)
Thu 18 UEFA Europa League R of 32 1
Sat 20 Emirates FA Cup 5
Thu 25 UEFA Europa League R of 32 2
Sat 27 Everton (H, 3pm)

MARCH
Tues 1 Manchester City (H, 8pm)
Sat 5 Crystal Palace (A, 3pm)
Sat 12 Chelsea (H, 3pm)
Sat 12 Emirates FA Cup 6
Sat 19 Southampton (A, 3pm)

APRIL
Sat 2 Tottenham Hotspur (H, 3pm)
Sat 9 Stoke City (H, 3pm)
Sat 16 Bournemouth (A, 3pm)
Sat 23 Newcastle United (H, 3pm)
Sat 23 Emirates FA Cup S-F
Sat 30 Swansea City (A, 3pm)

MAY
Sat 7 Watford (H, 3pm)
Sun 15 West Bromwich Albion (A, 3pm)
Sat 21 Emirates FA Cup final


L.F.C.
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AUTUMN/
WINTER
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Didi Hamann

Top-flight football is full-on and players have their own little ways of coping

In recent times football coverage has grown to such an extent that it's almost impossible to escape from the game. If you turn on the TV there is wall-to-wall coverage. The same applies when you go on the internet, look at your mobile phone or pick up a newspaper.

That is an intense environment for any player to live in. It's 24/7 so they need a way of relaxing and forgetting about the game, even if it is only for an hour or two. In my years at Liverpool one of my pastimes was playing golf with the lads. I've read that Bill Shankly and Bob Paisley weren't big fans of their players having a round as they thought it could lead to injury. But for me I found it an ideal way to unwind.

That down-time was something I felt I needed even though I wasn't somebody who was obsessed by the game. I could quite easily go away from the training ground and not talk about it or even think about football until I turned up there again the next morning for training again.

Not all players are like that. Some of them are the complete opposite. They know nothing else but football. That's why I think it's a good thing when I hear some younger players talk about playing the Xbox or PlayStation. Video games never interested me but if that is how you switch off then great. Do it. Footballers will always have lots of free time, it's the nature of the job. So if you have something like golf or computer games to give you a break and help you relax then it's got to be a positive.

I know many managers feel that players who are married and have kids are more likely to perform well because much of their free time is occupied and they have less chance of going astray. In Germany Otto Rehhagel, who managed Werder Bremen and Bayern Munich before leading Greece to victory at Euro 2004, had a policy of never having too many single players in his squad. He wanted there to be lots of married guys and would even use that factor to decide on signings. He felt that those lads would be a good influence on the younger, single players who often had endless hours to fill after training.

"If having an Xbox or PlayStation can help a player to switch off, then great"

Some clubs would try to combat that by attempting to keep players at the training ground for as long as possible, holding meetings in the afternoon. That can lead to resentment as players like to make their own choices and some will choose to stay on later anyway for extra practice, whereas others want to be out the gate as soon as their work is done. I was like that. Once we were finished training I didn't hang around.

You can't lock players away or keep a constant eye on them. The majority of them in the Premier League now are guys in their twenties who need to have lives away from the club. Once they lead those lives in the right way and allow themselves an occasional break from the game, then there isn't a problem.

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Otto Rehhagel guiding Greece to Euro 2004 glory





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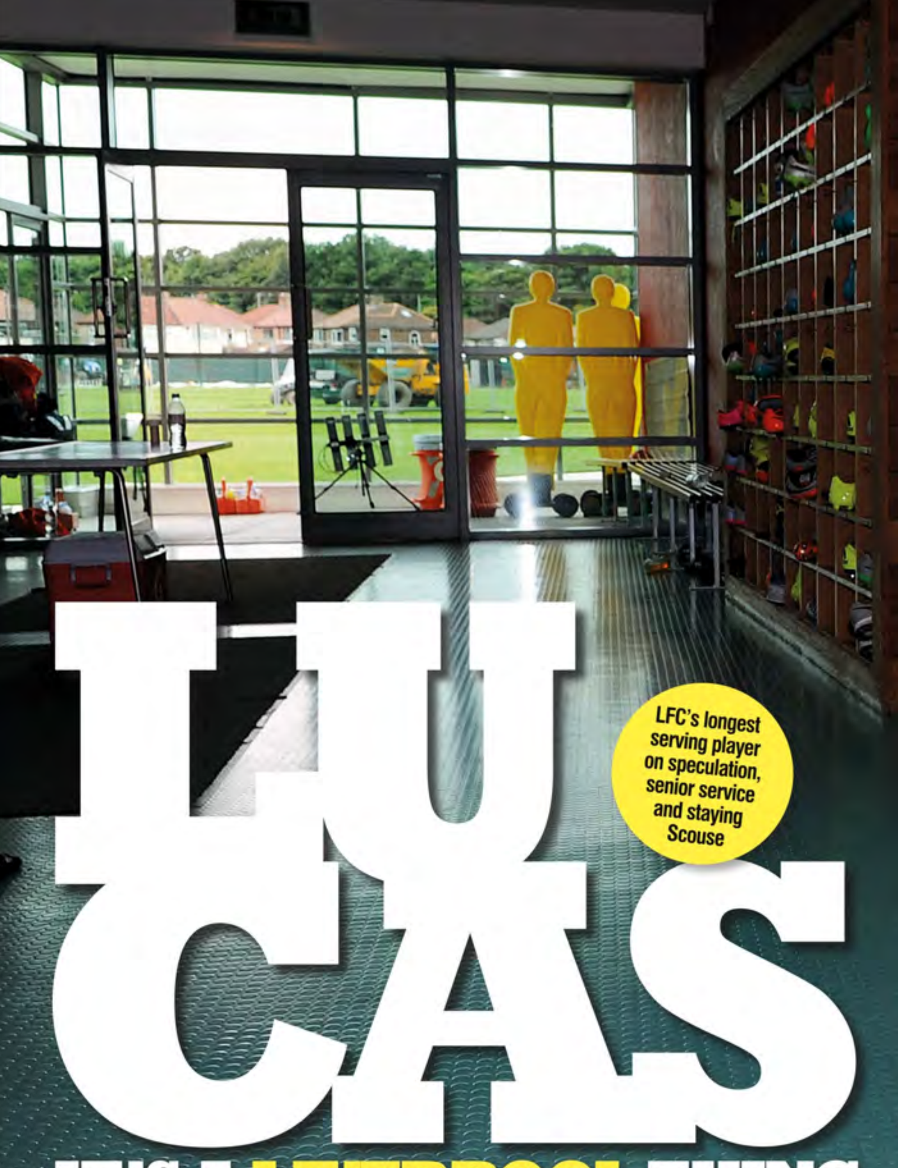
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Adam Bogdan dives low to save a penalty in the Capital One Cup win over Carlisle – how many spot-kicks did he save on the night? Answer on p98

Exclusive interviews with star players plus a new talent in the Ladies team and a great big Liverpool FC in Europe quiz



LUCAS

LFC's longest serving player on speculation, senior service and staying Scouse

IT'S A LIVERPOOL THING


Indonesia

When Steven Gerrard confirmed his move to LA Galaxy last season, Lucas prepared himself to take on the mantle as the club's longest-serving player. For a while, however, he was left wondering whether he would hold that title for just a matter of months after he was left out of the matchday squad for the opening two Premier League games of the season.

As speculation mounted over his future, the affable midfielder admits he started to contemplate the leaving of Liverpool during an unsettling time played out against the backdrop of having a son preparing to start school. However, a series of events sparked a change in circumstances. He was recalled to the squad – and the starting line-up – for the Reds' visit to Arsenal and produced an assured display at the Emirates to help neutralise the attacking threat posed by the Gunners. In the event Liverpool left North London disappointed to have taken only a point.

The Brazilian is more than pleased to be staying put and hopes he can revel in his role as the side's senior statesman. "As soon as Stevie left I knew that I was going to be the longest-serving player. I think that is a great achievement and an honour for me. To be that many years in one club – and a club like Liverpool – shows that I have done well and I believe that I still have a lot to offer.

"Coming over from Brazil at 20 years of age...you just want to succeed. I didn't realise or even begin to think that maybe I would be here so long. But now I want to keep going. I am still here and very happy about that.

"I think that I have learned the way people like to see a player. Sometimes things don't always go the right way or the way that you want, but I think commitment is one quality that the fans always expect from a player. I always show that and I always will until my last day here. Liverpool Football Club is a club that I love and I hope there will be many more games to play, memories to take and opportunities to honour the red shirt."

A wry smile crosses Lucas' face when asked how it feels to be the longest-server, a title he holds having arrived six months earlier than Martin Skrtel. "You feel quite old in some ways but I'm only 28. Me and 'Skrts' arrived at more or less the same time, but he is older!

"Sometimes the eight years feels like quite a long time but in other respects the time has gone quite quickly. When I reflect on it, a lot of things have changed in my life during these eight years, not just in terms of football but also in my life outside of the game but they have only been good changes.


2007: the young boy from Brazil

2015: our man in the middle

Liverpool is a big part of my life. I came here so young, at 20 years old with no family. Now I am married with two kids, the oldest just starting school and both learning English which is something that I always wanted for them.

"In football terms I have played for Brazil and made more than 200 league appearances for a club like Liverpool which gives me confidence that I have been doing the right things and I want it to keep going for many more years."

Lucas hopes that he can bring that wealth of experience to bear in the months and years ahead and is relieved to be focused fully upon the day-in, day-out of life at Melwood again after an August that proved mentally exhausting.

His name was a regular fixture in the transfer gossip columns, as it has been during the past few windows. His omission from those first two matchday squads of the season spurned numerous 'Lucas Leaver' headlines and, as deadline-day approached, he admits they were not without foundation.

"Sometimes it is frustrating. Every single transfer window it seems I am high on the list when people are

"Coming over from Brazil at 20, I never dreamed I'd be here so long"

linking players with moving. It is true that sometimes it has been close to happening and that was certainly the case this summer, but the fact is that if I have a choice between choosing another club or Liverpool it will always be Liverpool. I am very happy here and feel that I can help the team. There were times when I thought I might have to find another solution and move on in order to keep my career going. That came into my mind, but something that I hope people will never question is my commitment to this club and my love of Liverpool. In the end I think it [staying] was the right choice for everyone – for the club and for myself.

"I was very frustrated that I couldn't make the squad for the first two games, but football history shows you that there are many examples where things can change very quickly. A couple of things happened during the first couple of matches that gave me the chance to play against Arsenal and I believe that because I was training so hard and preparing so well, I was able to come in and have a good game. Maybe if there hadn't have been the Arsenal game I wouldn't be here now,



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but I think things always happen for a reason and I will keep fighting for the club as I have been doing for the past eight years.

"I believe I can still offer a lot to the club in terms of playing and helping the young players. I have a few more years left on my contract which shows the belief and trust that the players and manager have in me."

Offering help and guidance to the group of youngsters at the club is something Lucas sees as one of the key responsibilities of a senior player. He still recalls the acclimatisation process following his own arrival from Porto Alegre club Gremio and hopes to play his part in making the transition smoother, particularly for his fellow South Americans.

"I always try to help. Naturally I end up helping the Latin and Spanish players more. The language barrier inevitably makes it hard at first and we see that now with Roberto Firmino. The English guys come and settle quickly because they know the language and often know each other, so I think it is easier for them. But when a new player comes from Spain or South America, making them feel comfortable and settled is one of the roles I feel I do have. I have been on the other side of it and I had the same problems in terms of adapting so I understand how important it is to have help."

Lucas also accepts that there are different demands made of Liverpool players. His eight years have helped him appreciate the culture of the club and he says that is also important to pass on. He has played under Rafael

Training with old friends and new faces

"It's true I've been close to leaving but I'd always choose to stay here"

Benitez, Roy Hodgson, Kenny Dalglish and Brendan Rodgers and learnt a lot from each of them.

"I've played under four managers here and of course when managers and players come and go you always have to adapt, but I think it has given me a lot of experience and understanding. When you are playing for Liverpool, you always play against big teams in big competitions which gives you experience, belief and knowledge. Being one of the senior players here gives me the confidence but also the responsibility to pass those things on to the younger players and we have quite a young squad at the moment. We have players who have a lot of potential but they are still very young."

This summer has seen a change in coaching staff with Colin Pascoe and Mike Marsh moving on and Sean O'Driscoll, Gary McAllister and Pep Lijnders now working closely with the first-team squad at Melwood. "It's been good. Sean, Pep and Gary have been doing a lot of work on the training ground and Brendan gives a lot of freedom to implement their ideas. That is only going to help us going forward. They are three coaches with different approaches and the more information you receive the better because it helps you understand more and then you improve. They demand a lot from us – all of them – but that is a positive.





"I've played under four managers here and learned from all of them"

"We have had very good training sessions here throughout the past three years and they have been very enjoyable. When new players and new staff arrive, there is always a sense of something new and fresh. I speak a lot with Gary and he understands the game as he was a fantastic midfield player. I think when you are older and not playing anymore, you maybe see things that you don't when you are a player. I am learning a lot from him and I think all three coaches will be very good for us."

Back in the Eighties the Reds were linked with the impossibly exotic Josimar, the rangy right-back whose goalscoring exploits at the 1986 World Cup propelled him into the national consciousness. The rumours came to nothing and it would be another couple of decades before the Reds signed a Brazilian full-back with Fabio Aurelio arriving in 2006. Now, following the summer arrivals of Firmino and Allan Rodrigues de Souza, the number of Brazilians on Liverpool's books is at a record four.

"It is pleasing to see," says Lucas. "I think it just shows that the Brazilians that have been here have always been very professional and good players. The first was Fabio Aurelio and I was the second, and since then we have seen a number of players coming here. It means that a club like Liverpool are looking more and more for these kind of players and hopefully the Brazilians can continue to show they are very professional and be successful here."

Off the field, this particular Brazilian is very much at home in his Merseyside surroundings. His oldest child, Pedro, started school in the city last month – something that has delighted his proud father. "Pedro has started in reception class. He is a big boy now and we are very happy that he has been able to learn English as I think this will help him a lot as he gets older. He already has his friends here which is great to see.

"For our kids it is good that they really feel they have a home here. Going to school is a big change for him but he is doing great and I am looking forward to seeing him developing. That is what I always wanted to offer for him and later on for [my daughter] Valentina. His English is good and he understands a lot although I don't understand him sometimes because of the Scouse accent! Having the opportunity to have this kind of education is something that I always wanted to give to our children."

As for Dad, he is approaching the top 65 on the club's all-time appearances list with only seven foreign outfield players [Gordon Hodgson, Berry Nieuwenhuys, Jan Molby, John Arne Riise, Sami Hyypia, Dirk Kuyt and Skrtel] having played more league games for the Reds.

"Not many players have reached that with Liverpool and it is a big achievement for me. There have been ups and downs, but it is worth everything and hopefully there will be many more."

TELL US ABOUT...

ROBERTO FIRMINO

"The expectation level is very high with Roberto but I am sure he will deliver. He didn't have much pre-season which didn't help him, but I think in the games that he has played, he has shown a lot of tactical intelligence and given the way we play I think he is going to be an important player for us. He needs some time to adapt, but he's got good experience of playing in the Bundesliga which will help him to adjust quickly and hopefully he will be here for a long time."

ALLAN (RODRIGUES DE SOUZA)

"I met Allan when he came to train at Melwood a few months ago. He's been round to my house and we talked a little bit. We had him here training intensely for a couple of weeks and he is another one for the future. He played in my city for Gremio's biggest rivals Internacional which is very famous in Brazil for producing players. In the two weeks he was here we could see that he has a great future ahead of him. Now he has gone away to get some experience and playing time on loan in Finland and hopefully at some point in the next few years he will be ready to make an impact for Liverpool."

PHILIPPE COUTINHO

"What can you say? Philippe has been amazing for the club in the last two-and-a-half years and at 23 years old I think he will only get better. Hopefully Firmino will follow in his footsteps and then Allan in the future."



Words: William Hughes


#GLOBALGOALS
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THEY MADE HISTORY

Goalscorer Danny Ings has joined a special club – here are the seven other milestone members

When Danny Ings came off the substitutes' bench against Norwich City to score his first Liverpool goal quicker than Delia Smith could pluck a pheasant, he also became the 400th different player (excluding own-goals) to have bagged a league goal for the Reds. We won't be naming the other 399 – it'd be Christmas by the time you finished reading that – but thanks to LFC stattos Dave Ball and Ged Rea we do know the identity of the other milestone makers...



Alberto congratulated Danny with his special Seville stranglehold

50th Thomas Green

3 Jan 1903 Blackburn 3 Liverpool 1

Inside-forward Tom arrived at Liverpool from New Brighton Tower (the football club, not the actual tower that stood in New Brighton from 1898 to 1919) and became the Reds' 50th league goalscorer with his only goal for the cub in seven appearances. He struck even quicker than Ings, netting in the second minute at Ewood Park, but Blackburn equalised through Blackburn (Fred Blackburn) and had the game won by the 25th minute. Green never played for LFC again.

100th Harry Chambers

30 Aug 1919 Bradford City 1 Liverpool 3

Seven players made their LFC debuts at Valley Parade on the opening day of 1919/20 – the first season since the end of WW1 – and within 10 minutes Harry Lewis had become the Reds' 99th different league scorer. Fellow new boy Harry 'Smiler' Chambers completed the century shortly afterwards from close range. For good measure, Albert Pearson marked his first LFC game by netting the third on a rare afternoon when three debutants all scored.


Mickey Marsh

150th Tiny Bradshaw

3 Sept 1932 Newcastle United 4 Liverpool 3

A game involving Newcastle that finished 4-3? As if that'd ever happen again. And it's fair to say that goals from Thomas 'Tiny' Bradshaw were rarer. The Liverpool skipper was playing in his 102nd game for the Reds when he finally got on the scoresheet for the first time to become our 150th different league scorer. He only netted a further three times in 291 games, having arrived from Bury as an £8,000 club-record signing. You couldn't call that transfer fee tiny in 1932.

200th Geoff Twentyman

6 Nov 1954 Liverpool 2 Hull City 1

The strapping centre-half played under Bill Shankly at Carlisle before moving to Anfield and in 1967 was appointed by Shanks as Liverpool's chief scout. In-between that he made 184 appearances for LFC, netting 19 goals. Twentyman's first came in the Second Division in a 2-1 victory against Hull City and ensured that he became our 200th different league scorer. He also ensured plenty more Liverpool goals by scouting, among others, Steve Heighway, John Toshack, Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott and Ian Rush.

250th Phil Thompson

4 Sept 1973 Liverpool 2 Derby County 0

Thommo didn't have much of a nose for goals – he only got 13 in 477 appearances for the Redmen – but his first came against Brian Clough's Derby County and was an absolute screamer. "It fell to me about 30 yards out," he recalled. "I'm not a good golfer, but I know that feeling when you catch the ball perfectly. It flew from my boot and went into the top left-hand corner. I remember Kevin Keegan rushing up to me saying, 'How did you kick it that far?'"


Thommo

300th Mike Marsh

28 Nov 1992 Liverpool 5 Crystal Palace 0

Mike Marsh's header against Auxerre is the most famous of the six he scored in a red shirt, but in late 1992 he somewhat randomly netted three goals against Crystal Palace during a 19-day period. Two of them were penalties in League Cup ties, but his first-ever Premier League goal was a 25-yarder down the Annie Road end that flew past Nigel Martyn. It also made the Scouser the 300th different Reds goalscorer in the league.

350th Stephen Warnock

15 March 2006 Liverpool 5 Fulham 1

Robbie Fowler will never forget the night of Wednesday 15 March 2006 – he scored for the first time in what was his second spell at Anfield – and nor will Stephen Warnock. On as an 88th-minute substitute against Fulham, the Ormskirk-born left-back sent a bobbling, stoppage-time, right-footed effort from just inside the box past former Reds reserve keeper Tony Warner at the Kop end for his only Liverpool goal. A beaming smile and leap of joy was proof of how much it meant to Warnock, who now plays for Derby County.


Get in there! Warnock scores v Fulham

BE IN THAT 14

The beautiful game is also a numbers game and we've got stacks of statistics about Jordan Henderson

Standard Chartered

11 of Henderson's 20 Liverpool goals have been scored inside the box

NINETEEN NINETY FOUR is the year that Jordan's favourite ever film, *The Shawshank Redemption*, was released

NUMBER

110%

the amount of effort (even if we say so ourselves) Jordan gives every time he plays for the Redmen!



was the time on the Anfield scoreboard when Henderson struck his first Liverpool goal against Bolton Wanderers in 2011



the number of points the Fiat Punto, Jordan's first car, was awarded to win European Car of the Year in 1995, beating off competition from the Volkswagen Polo and Opel Omega

10

Henderson is equally likely to score at home or away – he's netted 10 goals at Anfield and 10 on the road

FIVE

other players wore the no14 shirt in Premier League games before Hendo: Jan Molby, Neil Ruddock, Vegard Heggem, Xabi Alonso and Milan Jovanovic



0171

the distance in miles between Anfield and Sunderland's Stadium of Light, Jordan's former home ground

18

Henderson's age when, plus 137 days, when he made his first-team debut for Sunderland as a half-time substitute against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge

HUNDRED

LIVERPOOL'S 1-0 WIN AT STOKE WAS JORDAN'S FIRST GAME AS CLUB CAPTAIN AND THE 100TH MATCH THE REDS HAVE WON WHEN HE HAS PLAYED



This is A

A matchday in the life of Liverpool FC's home



Photography by Nick Taylor


FUREY
29



Left: "It's going up quickly that new Main Stand, eh lad?" **Above:** Hat, scarf, badge or yer £6 double deal LFC magazine and matchday programme… **Below:** Hitting a half-volley Sturridge-style in the Fan Zone



Above and right: Anfield wouldn't be Anfield without flags. Four are in the corners, the rest are on a red-and-white Kop. **Below:** That first glimpse of the luscious green turf and going retro for the singing of YNWA


Charte



Above: "I love to see the lasses with their pink scarves on…" plus high-fives all-round in the warm-up **Below and right:** Pre-match prep in 2015: read the programme, send a few texts, take a photo or two for Facebook and belt out a few songs!


FOOTBALL CLUB
ANFIELD
LIVERPOOL
THIS



Above: This is Anfield, Liverpool attacking the Kop end, there's no place you'd rather be.
Below: Come on Redmen, we can win this! Let's get behind them! Hang on, there's a late chance for Coutin...ohhhhhh!





Above: Not all eyes are on Nathaniel Clyne as he takes a throw-in. Who's moving for him eh?
Below: Dropping a couple of points against Norwich hurts, but we'll be back. We are Liverpool, and this is our church


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SIX-Y FOOTBALL!

Titles, cups and finals, and then some. It's rather lively at LFC when the season ends in '6'

1895/96

Having been relegated in April 1895, finishing bottom of the league and losing a Test Match play-off 1-0 to Second Division champions Bury at Ewood Park, changes were afoot down Anfield Road. The joint 'managerial' role between club secretary William E Barclay and prominent board member 'Honest' John McKenna (right), in place since Liverpool FC was formed in 1892, ended when the former resigned and the latter took sole charge.

McKenna rebuilt the squad and Liverpool won seven of their opening eight games, thumping Newton Heath (aka Manchester United) 7-1 along the way, and in February securing what remains a club-record league victory when Rotherham United were thrashed 10-1 at Anfield.

Over the course of the 1895/96 season Liverpool scored 106 times in 30 games to sit top on goal-average from Manchester City. Ultimately they were promoted as champions via a mini-league also consisting of City, First Division strugglers Small Heath (aka Birmingham City) and West Bromich Albion. But McKenna had a shock in store: he retired to the boardroom after convincing Sunderland's Tom Watson, regarded as the best manager in the country, to take over as Liverpool manager.



1905/06

Tom Watson had guided Liverpool to a first league championship in 1900/01. His side were subsequently relegated in 1904 only to bounce back at the first attempt. However, after losing the opening three games of their First Division return by an aggregate score of 2-11, it seemed another relegation dogfight was on the cards in 1905/06.

The season turned in game four at Roker Park when fox-in-the-box Sam Raybould netted twice in a 2-1 win that was disrupted by a fox running from box to box! Liverpool's form improved so dramatically that they went from bottom on 11 September to top by 16 December, a position they remained in for the rest of the season. The title was clinched after a 3-2 defeat at Burnden Park – nearest

1915/16

Less than a fortnight after Liverpool completed their 1914/15 campaign, Tom Watson passed away aged 56. A severe chill developed into pneumonia and the Liverpool boss never recovered. He died on 6 May.

Several of Watson's players, Ned Doig, Alex Raisbeck, Charlie Wilson, Arthur Goddard, Maurice Parry, George Fleming and Robbie Robinson plus club trainer William Connell, carried the coffin at his funeral. Earlier in 2015, to mark the 100th anniversary of his death, a new headstone was placed upon his previously unmarked grave in Anfield Cemetery.

Not only were Liverpool without a manager, they didn't have a league to play in either. The Football League was suspended in the summer of 1915 as the First World War escalated. So, with assistant secretary George Patterson unofficially in charge, Liverpool played regional football in the 'Lancashire Section'. The highlight undoubtedly came in April when Everton and Manchester United visited for back-to-back fixtures. Everton were beaten 5-2 and, 24 hours later, United were thumped 7-1 with centre-forward Fred Pagnam blasting hat-tricks in both matches.

Both Pagnam's playing and managerial careers were disrupted by the two wars. He scored 30 goals in 39 games for LFC either side of WW1, netting 43 in 49 games during the hostilities. By the time WW2 broke out he was coaching in the Netherlands but was forced to flea the country with his Dutch wife to escape the Nazis.

challengers Preston also lost that day so couldn't mathematically catch Liverpool – and meant the Reds qualified for The Sheriff of London Charity Shield, football's biggest trophy, literally. Standing 6ft tall, it was awarded to the winners of a match between the best professional and best amateur side in England.

Corinthians were Liverpool's opponents at Craven Cottage and a Joe Hewitt hat-trick helped them beat the amateurs – many of whom had already begun playing cricket for the summer – 5-1 in 'as good a display of professional football as has been seen in London since the great days of the old Preston North End eleven'. But then winning silverware was elementary for Tom Watson.



1925/26

Truth be told, Liverpool's 1925/26 campaign was one of the quietest seasons in the club's history. Under the management of former player Matt McQueen, the Reds spent most of the season in mid-table before finishing seventh having, rather unusually, drawn five of their final seven matches 2-2. There were however some 'I was there' moments at Anfield for suited-and-booted Kopites to enjoy.

The arrival of a goalscoring genius was the highlight. Gordon Hodgson (left) was part of a touring South African XI that had beaten a Liverpool side 5-1 at Anfield in October 1924, and both he and goalkeeper Arthur Riley, were signed by the club in 1925.

Hodgson scored his first goals in a 3-3 draw at Old Trafford on 10 March and went on to net 233 league goals for Liverpool – the most any player has scored for the club in the top flight.



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Spacious Legroom

1935/36

The Merseyside derby on 7 September 1935 was billed as a shoot-out between Liverpool's Gordon Hodgson and Everton's William Ralph 'Dixie' Dean.

Dixie's astonishing 60 league goals in 1927/28, which fired the Toffees to the title, later had Bill Shankly proclaiming him as "the greatest centre-forward there will ever be." But in September 1935 the day belonged to Liverpool who won 6-0 thanks to four goals from...Fred Howe (below)! Hodgson weighed in with the other two.

It suggested a good season lay ahead, but in January, with Liverpool seventh in the table and just four points behind second-placed Derby County, the Anfield board made the almost catastrophic decision to sell Hodgson to Aston Villa for £1,500 after deciding that, at 32, he was past his best. Liverpool's form capitulated. They won just three of their final 20 games, failing to score in nine of them, to finish 19th, missing relegation by three points.

The poor run coincided with secretary-manager George Patterson falling into poor health and he was relieved of his managerial duties, George Kay taking over, with a miserable campaign compounded by the death of John McKenna in March at the age of 82.


FRED HOWE. Liverpool F.C. Topical Times.



1945/46

Not only does the FA Cup have big ears, it had two legs in 1945/46. While the Football League was still suspended as the dust settled on the end of the war, the FA Cup resumed as a two-legged competition, to ensure all clubs got at least one home game. So on 5 January 1946, Liverpool played their first competitive match since September 1939, against Chester City.

Among LFC's eight debutants was Billy Liddell, a powerful Scottish forward signed from Lochgelly Violet in 1938, who had spent the early years of his Anfield career serving in the RAF and playing wartime football. He opened the scoring in 2-0 win at Sealand Road before Willie Fagan, who had netted the second, got both in a 2-1 second-leg victory at Anfield. Unfortunately the Reds ran into a Bolton Wanderers side containing Nat Lofthouse and Ray Westwood in the fourth round – the pair getting all the goals as Liverpool were beaten 5-0 at Burnden Park, reclaiming some pride with a 2-0 return-leg win at Anfield. In the Football League Northern Division, Liverpool finished 11th.

What happened next was hugely significant. On 3 May Liverpool set off on an eight-week, 10-game tour of the United States of America and Canada after chairman Bill O'Connell decided it would benefit the players to escape food-rationed Britain for a diet of steaks, maple-syrup drenched pancakes and fresh orange juice across the pond. Liverpool's players gained an average of 7lb in weight per man on that tour and returned for the 1946/47 campaign stronger and fitter than their rivals. It helped them to win the league.

1955/56

For the second season running Kopites faced the prospect of watching Second Division football. The Reds had finished the previous campaign in 11th, after a 6-1 final-day defeat at Rotherham United, having also suffered a club-record 9-1 reverse at Birmingham City. Manager Don Welsh's two summer signings, amateur teenage striker Bobby Murdoch and Chester right-back John Molyneux, had hardly captured the imagination either.

Liverpool's promotion hopes rested with Billy Liddell (right) and it just so happened that 1955/56 turned out to be the best scoring season of King Billy's career. His 32 goals, 27 of them in the league, had the Reds in contention all season. With six matches left they were second, with the top two going up. But in front of a 49,659 Easter Monday Anfield crowd, they lost 2-1 to lowly Doncaster Rovers. A 3-1 defeat at Fulham followed and the Reds eventually finished third. It cost Welsh his job. But he felt the blame lay elsewhere: "Team selection at Liverpool has always been a board affair, and there we have not always regarded things in the same light." Former player Phil Taylor (not the one who plays darts) was appointed as his successor.




LIVERPOOL, SEVEN TIMES CHAMPIONS

1965/66

Bill Shankly brought the league title back to Anfield in 1964 and led Liverpool to a first FA Cup triumph in 1965, so it sometimes feels like his second championship success in 1966 gets overshadowed.

It shouldn't be. Liverpool won the league in style, leading the table from 17 November onwards, and almost landed a first European trophy to go with it. Shanks only used 15 players all season. Two of them, Phil Chisnall and Bobby Graham, only appeared once each.

Roger Hunt and Ian St John netted 46 goals between them and right-back Chris Lawler was third-leading scorer with nine as the title was wrapped up at Anfield on 30 April against Chelsea who, gallingly for second-placed Leeds, welcomed the Reds onto the field with a guard of honour despite Liverpool still needing a point to clinch it. They got two, winning 2-1.

Five days later the travelling Kop marched up to Glasgow to see the Redmen take on Borussia Dortmund at Hampden Park in the European Cup Winners Cup final, Liverpool's first in Euro competition. They'd knocked out Celtic in the semi-final so many of the 'neutrals' in the crowd supported Dortmund (although maybe not any Rangers fans there). The Germans won 2-1 in extra-time through a freak own-goal by Ron Yeats after Libuda's speculative 40-yarder went in off the Reds skipper after hitting the post. "We were beaten by a team of frightened men," scowled Shankly. "I am quite sincere when I say they are the worst team we met in the competition this season."



1975/76

Questions were being asked about Bob Paisley's suitability to be Liverpool manager in the summer of 1975. Honestly! He'd won nothing in 1974/75 after stepping into Bill Shankly's size-12s and a section of Reds supporters were wondering if Bob was merely a great coach rather than a top manager. Nobody asked those questions again after 1975/76.

Paisley had signed Phil Neal and Terry McDermott to complement Shankly's leaving-present of Ray Kennedy, but it took a season for them to gel with established stars like Kevin Keegan, Emlyn Hughes, Ray Clemence, Ian Callaghan, Tommy Smith and Phil Thompson. They clicked in 76 and the Reds were in the thick of the title race while also reaching the final of the UEFA Cup. A famous semi-final victory in Camp Nou – John Toshack's goal making the Reds the first English side to beat Barcelona on their own patch – set up a two-legged final with Bruges either side of a title-decider at Wolves.

Liverpool went two goals down in the first leg at Anfield, but three goals in six second-half minutes had Belgian heads spinning. The Reds then needed a point at Molineux to pip QPR to the title but trailed 1-0 until the 76th minute when Keegan's goal was followed by others from Toshack and Kennedy. "It's my proudest moment being at Liverpool," said Bob. "The championship is the greatest competition in the world." A fortnight later and Paisley landed a double as the UEFA Cup was claimed with a 1-1 draw in Belgium. He went on to win at least one trophy in the following seven seasons, including Ol' Big Ears three times.



1985/86

"We feel we have a man of great ability on the field who has got an old head on young shoulders." Sir John Smith's explanation as to why 34-year-old Kenny Dalglish had been appointed as Liverpool's first player-manager, to replace the retiring Joe Fagan in the summer of 1985, didn't convince everyone. But it turned out to be a cute move from the continuity-loving Anfield chairman.

The Heysel ban meant there was no European football and Dalglish also had to replace ageing full-backs Phil Neal and Alan Kennedy plus the dilemma of how often he should select himself. Steve McMahon and Mike Hooper were brought in to strengthen the squad and Alan Hansen was appointed skipper, but Liverpool's results were mixed and after a 2-0 home defeat to Everton in February the Reds trailed the Blues by eight points. Hansen even told Dalglish it was "the worst Liverpool team I've ever played in."

A 90th-minute Ian Rush winner at Spurs the following week was the turning point. Dalglish played himself more often and Liverpool won ten of their final 11 games to clinch the title in dramatic fashion when he volleyed home the winning goal at Stamford Bridge on the final day of the season. His side completed a historic double by beating Everton 3-1 in the first all-Merseyside FA Cup final at Wembley – Rushie and Craig Johnston on the scoresheet. But for knocking themselves out of the League Cup with two own-goals in the semi-final against QPR, Kenny could've ended his maiden season as the first ever domestic treble-winning manager.


Liverpool ECHO

YOUR SOUVENIR OF A SENSATIONAL SEASON

THE DOUBLE!



1995/96

Pass-and-move was the Liverpool groove in 95/96 as Roy Evans' young side earned a reputation for playing attacking, exciting football that put the Reds in the hunt for major honours.

Stan Collymore was the big-money summer signing, arriving from Nottingham Forest for a British record £8.5m, and he immediately announced himself to the Anfield crowd with a curling 20-yard winner against Sheffield Wednesday on the opening day of the season. His strike partnership with Robbie Fowler, who returned from his summer break sporting peroxide-blond hair, flourished. With Steve McManaman operating in a free role behind them plus wing-backs Rob Jones and new-boy Jason McAteer providing width, Kopites witness some enthralling matches.

Blackburn (3-0), Bolton (5-2), Man City (6-0), Man United (2-0), Arsenal (3-1), Forest (4-2) and Leeds (5-0) were all swept aside with an unforgettable 4-3 victory against Kevin Keegan's Newcastle United in April – regarded by many as the Premier League's greatest ever game – putting Liverpool in the midst of the title race with six matches to play. But this Liverpool side also had a habit of losing silly games and a 1-0 defeat at Coventry (having previously lost 1-0 at Leeds, Wimbledon and Forest) left an FA Cup final showdown with Manchester United at Wembley as their only hope of silverware. We won't mention the score. Or those suits.



2005/06

European champions Liverpool started their campaign in July with three Champions League qualifying rounds after the miracle of Istanbul obliged UEFA to amend the rules. Meanwhile Reds boss Rafa Benitez had a busy summer in the transfer market. Pepe Reina, Momo Sissoko and Peter Crouch were his three big signings (they don't come much bigger than Crouchie) and a Premier League title challenge was anticipated. It never quite materialised.

Liverpool struggled for goals early in the campaign but landed the European Super Cup with a 3-1 extra-time win against CSKA Moscow and narrowly failed to win a first-ever World Club Challenge when beaten 1-0 by Sao Paulo in Japan after having a perfectly good Florent Sinama-Pongolle equaliser chalked off.

With Reina setting records for keeping 11 consecutive clean-sheets, the Reds finished third after completing the campaign with nine straight wins and securing a place in the FA Cup final against West Ham, beating Chelsea in the semi-final at Old Trafford.

In what turned out to be a memorable final, Liverpool came back from 2-0 and 3-2 down to force a 3-3 draw thanks to a virtuoso display from Steven Gerrard who scored perhaps his best Liverpool goal. Reina confirmed his reputation as a penalty-saving expert in the shoot-out and a seventh FA Cup was on its way back to Anfield from Anfield South Wales.

It means that Liverpool have now won silverware, or at least reached a cup final, when the season ends in a '6' for the last five decades and haven't finished lower than third in those seasons since the end of the Second World War. Best get planning those trips to Wembley and Basel then...



SAFE

First-team goalkeepers Simon Mignolet and Adam Bogdan on life between the Liverpool FC sticks


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Melwood's goalkeeping union

Who was your favourite goalkeeper when you were growing up?

SIMON MIGNOLET: Because I played outfield until I was about 15 I admired attackers like Romario, Zinedine Zidane, Bebeto, Stoichkov. It was only later on that I tended to pay more attention to keepers.

ADAM BOGDAN: For me it was Peter Schmeichel.

SM: You can't put that in the Liverpool magazine!

AB: [Laughing] I think Liverpool fans would admit that he stood out because of his ability, his presence and his slightly unorthodox style. As I got older I started to look at goalkeepers more closely and examine what they do. We've chatted before about Jussi Jaaskelainen – he did very well for Bolton. It was great to have the chance to work with him.

SM: I think you can learn something from every keeper at the top level in the Premier League and the Champions League because they all have quality. Gianluigi Buffon is someone I like watching. He's so good at everything and has the charisma and presence to go with it.

Do you guys see yourself playing as long as Buffon has?

AB: I can see Simon playing up to that age and maybe even longer.

SM: Hopefully, touch wood. But it all depends on your body, injuries…

AB: Or maybe which club you are at and what opportunities you get.

SM: I think all keepers have massive respect for guys like Buffon, Brad Friedel, Shay Given, Mark Schwarzer, Jussi – who carry on playing at the top

"I've broke my nose, damaged a cheekbone and an eye socket in the past"

level for so many years because we know how difficult the job really is.

AB: There is nothing lucky about the fact they have been around so long. If you play into your late thirties or even your forties then you must have looked after your body properly, spent time in the gym and done the right stretches every single day. That's not easy over such a long period of time. Of course you must also be playing well and have really good focus and concentration.

You mentioned injuries - does that just come with the territory of being a goalkeeper?

SM: In our position you have to accept there will be physical challenges. I've broken my nose and damaged my cheekbone and eye-socket and had other cuts and bruises from diving at players' feet. You are really putting your body on the line in those situations. It's part of being a goalkeeper. I think modern footballers are so physically strong and powerful that if there is a collision somebody is probably going to get hurt.

AB: It is tough for keepers. But I think if you look at the cuts and bruises on the legs of the outfield players after training or a game it tells you that it's tough for them too. I don't think we have it too bad because we're not normally involved in tackles or 50/50 challenges.

SM: Touch wood.

AB: I've been knocked out and had a knee injury from twisting and turning too quickly. Let's not talk about injuries too much.

SM: When a keeper gets injured it's usually bad. We don't usually get muscle injuries. Often something else.

How does a day's training for a goalkeeper differ from what an outfield player does?

AB: You will always find us still here at the training ground at 2pm every day, whereas some of the outfield players might be finished by then. They need



Buffon: legend

to rest more because their game contains a lot more running about. I remember playing as a striker when I was a kid and I was exhausted after about 70 minutes.

SM: They get their initial fitness from that running. We don't have that element when we play so we have to make up for it with other work. For a keeper everything has to be 100 per cent. You can't make saves or jump for a ball at 80 per cent.

AB: We have to work on the speed and power in our legs as you need to be able to get across the goal or quickly jump back to your feet after an initial save.

Adam, how has training here differed from what you were used to previously?

AB: In some ways it's similar. The biggest difference is probably the quality – understandably it's at a higher level. For example, when we do shooting drills the players here tend to put the ball right in the corner. So you either make the save with your fingertips or you don't make the save at all. That's the difference in the Premier League.

How have you found working with [goalkeeper coach] John Achterberg?

AB: He always makes you think. For example, he demands that you think all the time about your positioning. We review sessions with John and he always mentions if you are too far forward or too negative.

SM: He works hard to help us to improve and he works us hard too. He's a good character who makes training lively and enjoyable. Once we step on the pitch it's serious. But he's also somebody you can have a laugh with off the pitch and talk to if you need to. That's a great mix in a coach.

Is focus more important for a goalkeeper than somebody in another position?

AB: I think every player has to be focused and concentrate a lot but it applies more to a keeper because you might have long periods without touching the ball or having anything to

"Everything has to be at 100 per cent – you can't save at just 80 per cent"



do. Then you have to make a save. So if you're not switched on you will get caught out. Although the other players are focussed, they are constantly running around and involved so maybe it's easier to keep your focus.
SM: The margin of error for keepers is much higher too. We have to make sure that the two or three key moments in the game go right, whereas an outfield player will have a lot more touches so if he gives the ball away once or twice it might not always be such a problem. If a keeper makes the same number of errors you will usually end up losing.

Does that bring pressure?

SM: Pressure is a word that usually has negative connotations. It depends how you view it. You can see being a keeper as a responsibility, a chance to do an important job. That's how I look at it rather than as a pressure.
AB: I've worked with a sports psychologist for the last two years now. It really helps me to deal with that side of the game. There are a lot of things you think about when you are playing in goal. Depending on your character, you put more pressure on yourself to do everything right and that is something a professional can help you to deal with. I feel it benefits me and allows me to concentrate on the right things. It helps you to focus on the details you need to get right.

Is the role of a goalkeeper getting harder these days?

SM: I wouldn't say it's getting harder, maybe a bit more demanding. But I think that's the same for every individual player.
AB: People want a winger who can go forward and attack but also defend.
SM: Midfielders are expected to run something like 10 or 12k in a game. That wasn't the case in the past. You'd now expect a defender to play perfect passes out from the back whereas before they would just clear the danger.
AB: So I think the game is evolving and changing all of the time.
SM: In 20 or 30 years they'll need robots to live up to the demands!

Can a footballer ever produce the perfect performance?

AB: I think as I've got older I've moved away from the idea of being perfect. You just try to do your best and not worry about being perfect. Let others judge that.
SM: I think the mentality of most footballers is to come off the pitch thinking they could have done something better, even if it was only one thing.




Concentration is key

Every year, particularly when there's a World Cup or Euros on, we hear a lot of talk about new balls - do they change that much?

SM: Everybody is looking for a spectacle; they want to see goals so I can see why they change the balls. But our job is to keep it out of the net. With the different competitions you need to use a different ball each time. So that means you might train with three different balls in the space of a week if we are playing Premier League, League Cup and in Europe. Then you might go away with the national team too and that's another different ball as well. So you have to get used to it very quickly.

AB: We just have to adapt. Obviously they are all footballs, but sometimes it can be hard because they have different weights, different flights, some of them move a lot and some of them don't move as much. Others will travel further when you kick them exactly the same way. Others are picked up easily by the wind. You try not to think about it too much.

Obviously gloves are vital for every keeper - how do you choose which ones you wear?

SM: There are gloves with different types of palms, different types of fingers, different insides and outsides.

AB: I always like flat palms and mine are made especially for me, just the way I want them.

SM: It's all about individual preferences and what feels good. I don't like to wear brand new gloves for a game. I need to have used them four or five times in training beforehand to make sure they are right.

"Different balls have different weights and often different flights"

How about boots?

SM: My first goalkeeper coach told me never to wear flashy boots. John Achterberg is the same – he just likes to wear his black World Cup boots.

AB: John is old-school. I always thought it should be black boots and nothing else. Then I put on a pink pair about two years ago and it was very comfortable. That makes you start to look at it differently. I think that is the way football is going now. You can't look at the colours of boots or gloves too much. Kids love wearing the different colours. So you are better off not worrying about it.

SM: My football boots are specially made, they have to be because my second toe is longer than my first one so that has to be accommodated. From a marketing perspective they like to change colours every so often. I try to understand that.

You mentioned different coloured boots - what about the colour of goalkeepers' shirts?

AB: I get a lot of stick if it's a really bright colour because my hair can make me look like a fruit bowl. I like the black one we have now. Once it's not pink I don't mind. At Bolton we had an orange kit, so that obviously wasn't good for me with my red hair. Somebody asked me why I had chosen it but it's out of my control. The next season it was even worse, it was pink.

SM: I always say as long as the shirt, shorts and socks are the same colour then I'm happy. But it's something that we can't influence.

What's the best save you've seen recently?

[Both laugh and look at each other]

SM: It must have been the one John [Achterberg] made when we were training in Bordeaux.

AB: At least he thought it was great anyway. I think he felt he'd leaped over a metre to get to the ball. He certainly kept it out.

SM: But we thought that he should have caught it really.

Best piece of advice you've been given about goalkeeping?

SM: Just keep it out of the net!


What a save

words: John Hynes


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Winning the ball



"I'd kick my own brother if necessary – it's what being a professional footballer is all about." Eighties star Steve McMahon may have had his tongue slightly in cheek, but he had no qualms about getting stuck-in during midfield battles. The England international, who'd started out at Everton before moving to Aston Villa and then becoming a Red, was always ready for a physical contest – not least on derby day when some of his tussles with Peter Reid were unforgettable and always in the right spirit. Macca's steel and determination helped lay the platform for attacking team-mates in manager Kenny Dalglish's successful teams. More recently Javier Mascherano has probably been the standout individual when it came to winning the ball, the Argentine's energy allowing him to close down opponents before dispossessing them.

Protecting the back-four



"Quite often it's more effective to nick the ball away or be in the right place to intercept a pass rather than having to go in to a 50:50." The words of deep-lying Dietmar Hamann in our last issue illustrates his expertise. With Didi sat in front of the defence the prospect of any opponent breaking through was reduced – as he proved after being introduced at half-time in Istanbul. Having someone adept in that shielding role also allows other midfielders to attack. Steven Gerrard credited Hamann's presence with being a major factor in his own success: "Didi allowed me to go forward, score and set up goals, and he did all my defensive work and tackling for me."

ATE MIDFIELDER

Middle of the park: a user's guide blending the very best from past and present exponents in the colours of Liverpool Football Club

Breaking into the box



With attackers closely marked, it's the men who break forward who can often be the key contributors to victory. Terry McDermott (left) timed his surges into the area to perfection, as witnessed with his opening goal in the 1977 European Cup final. John Wark, who even outscored Ian Rush during 1984/85, was so good at getting forward at the most opportune moment that Bob Paisley declared: "He has great timing – you could set your watch by him." Ronnie Whelan regularly popped up to score at the right time in the biggest games, a trait we also associate with Steven Gerrard.

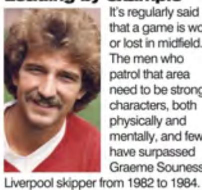
Shooting from distance



It's not always possible to break beyond the forwards. Sometimes a central midfielder will end up with the ball at their feet a long way from goal. Putting it in the back of the net is another matter – how often do we see long-range shots fly high and wide? Step forward Steven Gerrard once more. Everyone recalls his second equaliser against West Ham in the 2006 FA Cup final – just one of many occasions when he found the net from distance. It was something he was doing as a schoolboy as his former youth coach, Dave Shannon, recalls: "In a B team game against Man United at Melwood the ball dropped to him about 25 yards out. He chested it down before smacking a shot straight in to the top corner. That is a brilliant memory for me."



Leading by example



It's regularly said that a game is won or lost in midfield. The men who patrol that area need to be strong characters, both physically and mentally, and few have surpassed Graeme Souness, Liverpool skipper from 1982 to 1984. No challenge, not even facing Roma in their own backyard for the 1984 European Cup final, seemed to faze him. If anything, the opposite applied: the tougher the task, the more he was up for it. Ian Rush explained how the Scot inspired his colleagues: "Graeme used to go round every player at half-time, fist clenched, telling us the game was ours for the taking. He pumped adrenaline into you. I can't explain the feeling to this day, but you used to go out thinking you couldn't lose. That was the Souness psychology."

Passing is so delightful



After a 3-0 win over Norwich City in September 2004 there was only one player dominating the post-match discussion among Reds. His name hadn't appeared on the scoresheet, but Xabi Alonso's first start at Anfield saw him produce a masterclass of passing. "I've never seen anyone pass the ball as well as Xabi," team-mate John Arne Riise remarked. That display was a taste of things to come. Short or long, simple or complicated; the Spaniard's ability to distribute the ball in the right way and at the right time helped Rafa Benitez's teams control games and was a joy to watch. Such vision and accuracy instantly drew comparisons with Jan Molby as the Dane was also a master at retaining possession and unlocking defences.

ALL WE NEED IS MAZ!

That's the song that greets Liverpool's 'other' new teenage full-back aiming to star this season...


Maz in action

Every player dreams of playing in the UEFA Champions League but Mayumi Pacheco, better known as 'Maz', will need to gain special permission to do so. The Liverpool Ladies full-back, who only turned 17 in August, will require dispensation from St John Rigby College in Wigan to join the Reds squad taking on Italian side Brescia Femminile in the round of 32 this month.

After emerging from the club's Development Squad, Maz became the Ladies' youngest FA WSL player when she made her debut as a second-half substitute against Sunderland on the opening day of the season, aged 16 years and 212 days. "Every player wants to play in the Champions League but it's true that I will have to ask permission from the college for time-off if I am named in that squad," she says. "To be fair, my college is really positive towards my football so I'm sure they will be behind me."

"Hopefully my college will let me play in the Champions League if selected"

Maz recently collected encouraging AS level results and began her A-level year last month. She is interested in a career in law but says for the time being it's football first. "I got an A in Law, an A in Psychology, and a B in PE in the AS exams which was good. In terms of a career I have thought about becoming a lawyer but for now football is my main aim and I would love to become a regular at FA Women's Super League level."

Just three years ago, the prospect of becoming Liverpool's youngest player at senior level seemed an extremely distant one. "I started watching my brothers playing football when I was little. I think that's where I got the interest from because my mum had to take me when there was no-one to watch me at home. I would just be on the sidelines kicking a football about and next thing you know my mum got me to join a lads' team.

"I began playing for Skelmersdale United but had to stop because the FA had this rule where girls couldn't play with lads after that age. A man called Mike Vella contacted me and asked whether I wanted to come and join Skem Athletic girls. I was happy to give it a go, so that's when girls' football started for me.

"I was on holiday while trials for Liverpool Ladies were happening one August. I came back in time for one trial for the Under-15s but they said no. I was a bit sad about it. I went away


Joe Gomez

"When I saw my name in the starting XI I asked the boss: are you sure?!"

and joined Birkdale for a year but then Mike Vella, whose daughter Grace was at Liverpool, sorted it out for me to trial again. This time no other girls were trialling so I was training one-to-one with the coaches. Finally they asked me if I would like to sign. My family and I are all die-hard Liverpool supporters so I was thinking: oh my goodness! I had a year at Under-15s, a year at Under-17s, a year with the Development Squad and now I'm here with the first-team. It really is a case of living the dream."

Maz was thrilled to make a couple of substitute appearances during the first half of the season but admits she was almost caught out when manager Matt Beard named her in his starting line-up for the first time for the home game against Notts County in July. "It was unreal really. We went through the pre-match preparations and when the teamsheet went up, I looked for my name on the subs bench and saw I wasn't there. I was disappointed but then I spotted my name in the starting 11. I had to ask the manager: 'Are you sure?!'

With first-choice Liverpool Ladies left-back Corina Schroder among a number of players to have missed a large chunk of the season through injury, Maz has featured regularly in the line-up since. Her popularity has been reflected in the song supporters have come up with in her honour. To the tune of Queen's *Radio Gaga*, renditions of 'All We Need Is Maz Pacheco' have regularly been belted out at Ladies games.

'I think the first time I heard it was



Derby duty v Everton

when I came on in the Arsenal game in July. I had a big smile on my face. I was thinking: whoa, that's a bit weird – I'm only 16 and I've already got a song!' The supporters are great. My mum is mates with them and I always talk to them after the match. They baked me a cake for my 17th birthday which was a really nice touch!"

A keen learner, Maz likes to watch the men's team as much as possible and says she has been trying to pick up pointers from looking at the performances of fellow teenager Joe Gomez. "It's a bit surreal to think Liverpool's left-backs for the men's and ladies teams have been 18 and 17-year-olds. I have seen a lot of Joe since he came to the club and he's been doing really well. I always watch the men on TV or sometimes at Anfield when I can get there. I soon find myself watching the left-back.

"When I was in the Development Squad we used to come to see the ladies' first-team play because we would train just as they would train and try to play in the same way. I would come and watch and look at the players in my position because I always feel I can develop while watching football and improve my game through observing what I can. So when I watch the men I always believe I can take pointers and ideas to bring into my own performances."

Maz has Filipino heritage but, longer term, would love to follow in the footsteps of team-mates Fara Williams, Gemma Bonner and Natasha Dowie by playing for England. "I am half-Filipino as my mum was born there but my dad's from Liverpool. Before I started high school I spent six months in the Philippines because my mum's father wasn't well. I spent time there with him before he passed away, but then we came back to this area and I grew up here.

"My main aim is to keep improving. I realise that I'm still making a lot of mistakes in the game and I need to cut those out because the better players hardly ever make mistakes at FA WSL level. My ambitions are to eliminate those errors as much as possible and, looking further ahead, maybe play for England women. I am always watching them! I once went away with the Under-16s and we saw all the big stars walking past around St George's Park. It still seems surreal to think I'm playing with and against some of them now."

GET VOTING!

Liverpool Ladies have two players up for awards at the forthcoming MBNA North West Football Awards. Maz is up against Everton's Gabby George and Manchester City's Nikita Parris in the Women's Rising Star of the Year section, while team-mate Fara Williams is in the overall Women's Player of the Year category against George and Manchester City's Jill Scott. Supporters can cast their votes by visiting northwestfootballawards.com. The winners will be announced at a ceremony on 16 November.

UEFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Liverpool Ladies take on ACF Brescia Femminile in the round of 32 of the UEFA Women's Champions League.

Like Liverpool, Italian Cup winners Brescia made their Champions League bow last season, losing to Lyon at the same stage of the competition. Matt Beard's side went out to Swedish side Linkopings. The first leg will be played in Lombardy on Wednesday 7 October (8.45pm) with the return fixture taking place at the Select Security Stadium in Widnes on Wednesday 14 October (6.30pm).

Brescia were the Serie A champions in 2013/14 and won the Italian Cup for the second time earlier this year. This season's final will also be staged in Italy on 26 May 2016 at the Stadio Citta del Tricolore in Reggio Emilia.

Words: William Hughes



ARE YOU A EURO NERD?

The mighty Reds are back in Europe but you already know your Milne from your Milner and your Qabalas from your Qarabags...don't you?

EUROPA LEAGUE

1 Including Liverpool, four clubs have won the UEFA Cup/Europa League at least three times – who are the other three?

2 Steven Gerrard was the last Liverpool player to score a hat-trick in this competition – against which club did he achieve the feat?

3 Which club currently in the Europa League have Liverpool played in six friendlies – home and away – but never met in a competitive fixture?

4 Which club in this season's group stage, and famous former adversaries of Liverpool, play their home games at the Stade Geoffrey Guichard?

5 And which of the clubs in the groups has the nickname *Godenzonen* – the Sons of God?

6 FC Sion, one of the three other clubs in Liverpool's 2015/16 UEFA Europa League group, achieved which distinction on their first visit to Anfield in 1996?



7 Which club did Liverpool face in the 1973 UEFA Cup semi-final?

8 Which ex-Red, who appeared three times in our successful 2004/05 Champions League campaign, now plays for Europa League group debutants Asteras Tripoli?

9 Napoli hold the Europa League record for most consecutive clean-sheets – how many did they register under Rafa Benitez between November and February of last season?

10 Aside from Ajax and Liverpool, Luis Suarez played for another club in this season's Europa League – which one?

11 Which side, whom the Reds faced in the European Cup in 1966, have participated in the Europa League more than any other?

12 The Reds 1-1 draw with Steaua Bucharest in 2010/11 was part of the competition's most prolific goalscoring day so far – was the final tally of goals (a) 79 (b) 80 or (c) 81?

13 Liverpool have played European finals against three clubs also in the Europa League this season – name them.

14 Which former Red is the oldest player to have appeared in the competition having in 2013/14 appeared for a club in this season's Europa League?

15 Only two sides have appeared in the Europa League knockout stages more often than the Reds – who are they?



REDS IN EUROPE

16 Name these two injured players parading the FA Cup around Anfield before the legendary European Cup game with Inter Milan in 1965?

17 Which current Reds player has appeared against Liverpool in the Champions League in the past?

18 On nine separate occasions the Reds have been watched by over 70,000 spectators in an away European leg – who were the host clubs?

19 For which club did David de Gea, Jose Antonio Reyes and Sergio Aguero all play against Liverpool in Europe in 2010?

20 True or false: midfielder James Milner played for Leeds United in a Champions League semi-final?

21 Which team eliminated all three English clubs from the 2001/02 Champions League, Liverpool's first in the tournament's modern format?

22 Liverpool remain the only English club to have won against Barcelona in the Nou Camp – how many times?

23 Which current Premier League manager suffered defeat to Liverpool in the 1998/99 UEFA Cup?

24 "And what a delighted scorer – it's Tommy Smith!" Which commentator's voice?

25 When was the last time Liverpool faced a Scottish team in Europe?

26 Who famously marked German ace Paul Breitner out of the second leg of Liverpool's 1981 European Cup semi-final with Bayern Munich?

27 Since Liverpool's debut in the Champions League in its modern format how many times have the Reds reached at least the last eight?

28 "I wanted to take the penalty because I fancied scoring. The awesome atmosphere spurred us on. I wish I was younger because this place is ready to take off." Which current LFC employee said this in 2001?

29 Which club has inflicted Liverpool's biggest home defeat in Europe?

30 What was unusual about Wilfried Hannes, the Borussia Moenchengladbach defender who marked Kenny Dalglish in the 1978 European Cup semi-final?



31 Who was the first Liverpool player to score a hat-trick in European competition in the away leg of a tie?

32 Where was the European Cup the night after the 1981 final?

33 Who were we playing when assistant manager Phil Thompson said: "It was a nerve-wracking finale and this is where the crowd played their part – they were in brilliant voice for Paisley Night"?

34 What stopped Tommy Smith from playing in the 1978 European Cup final against Bruges at Wembley?

35 Which four Italian teams have won at Anfield?

36 If Roma had lost in the 1984 European Cup semis, which team would Liverpool have played in the final?

37 When Liverpool beat Alex Ferguson's Aberdeen in the 1980 European Cup second round, who later said: "I had a point to prove to those Scots critical of players like me earning their living in England. I never performed with so much fire and aggression. It was the same in the second leg at Anfield when we thrashed them 4-0 and I scored."

38 Apart from Fernando Torres which other Spanish striker has played for Liverpool in European competition but appeared for another club in a Champions League final?

39 And, a little earlier, which German striker played for Liverpool in Europe but appeared for another club in a Champions League final?

40 Only one other European final has yielded more goals on the night than Liverpool's 5-4 victory over Alaves in the 2001 UEFA Cup in Dortmund – which one and what score?

41 Who scored Liverpool's first goal on our re-entry into Europe in 1991?

42 True or false: Reds defenders Alberto Moreno and Martin Skrtel have both played in UEFA Cup/Europa League finals with other clubs?

43 "Ray's pass was so good it invited me to attack. I remember shrugging off a heavy challenge and thinking that once I'd got him on the wrong side, I just had to get the ball down and get it on target. It seemed so quiet as I homed in, but the noise after it hit the net was the loudest I've ever heard." Whose words?

44 "The pitch had rocks all over it. The hotel was awful. We were woken by farm animals at around five in the morning. The food was absolutely terrible. And we lost 1-0." Where was Liverpool goalkeeper Ray Clemence talking about back in 1977?

45 Which father and son played against Liverpool in a UEFA Cup semi-final and final respectively, a quarter-of-a-century apart?

46 Have Liverpool FC ever lost a tie in European competition on the toss of a coin?





ISTANBUL

47 From which country was the referee for the 2005 UEFA Champions League final?

48 Which Milan striker in the 2005 final had previously played for Chelsea, and which of his team-mates would move there a little later?

49 Which Liverpool defender was set to be substituted at half-time only to be kept on when a team-mate couldn't continue?

50 Technically speaking Liverpoolwon the Champions League on 26 May 2005 and not the day before – true or false?

51 How long did it take Liverpool to score their three second-half goals?

52 Who scored Liverpool's first penalty in the shoot-out?

53 Jerzy Dudek saved penalties from which two Milan players?

54 Can you name Liverpool's four unused substitutes?

55 Five Liverpool players started both the 2005 and 2007 finals against Milan – name them please…

56 Liverpool qualified for the UEFA Super Cup final as a result of their win – who did they face in that game?

57 Reflecting on the game years later, who said: "I'll never fully shake that sense of absolute impotence when destiny is at work – the feeling will cling to my feet forever, trying to pull me down"?


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ANSWERS

EUROPA LEAGUE

1. Juventus (1977, 1990, 1993), Inter Milan (1991, 1994, 1998) and Sevilla (2006, 2007, 2014, 2015); **2.** Napoli (November 2010); **3.** Rosenborg; **4.** St Etienne; **5.** Ajax; **6.** They became the first team to score three times at Anfield yet still lose the tie – 6-3 in the European Cup Winners' Cup; **7.** Tottenham Hotspur; **8.** Anthony Le Tallec; **9.** Napoli recorded five clean sheets in a row; **10.** Groningen (of Holland). **11.** Ajax, this is their seventh season; **12.** (c) 81 goals; **13.** Borussia Dortmund (Cup Winners' Cup 1966), Bruges (UEFA Cup 1976, European Cup 1978) and Anderlecht (Super Cup 1978); **14.** Brad Friedel was 42 years and 173 days old when he featured for Tottenham; **15.** Ajax and Rubin Kazan.

REDS IN EUROPE

16. Gordon Milne and Gerry Byrne; **17.** Kolo Toure – for Arsenal; **18.** Inter (90,000 in 1965); Celtic (80,000,1966); Dinamo Tbilisi (80,000, 1979); Bayern Munich (75,000, 1981); Barcelona (90,000, 2001); Barcelona again (75,000, 2002); Inter (80,000, 2008); Real Madrid (72,000, 2009); and Real again (79,000, 2015); **19.** Atletico Madrid; **20.** False: James made his Leeds debut in Nov 2002; Leeds lost to Valencia in the CL semi-final in May 2001; **21.** Bayer Leverkusen; **22.** Twice: in the 1975/67 UEFA Cup semis and the 06/07 Champions League round of 16; **23.** Claudio Ranieri (Leicester City) – he was coach of Valencia when Liverpool knocked them out in the second round; **24.** Barry Davies (1977 European Cup final); **25.** August 2012 against Hearts in the Europa League play-offs; **26.** Sammy Lee; **27.** Five times: 2001/02 quarters; 04/05 final; 06/07 final; 07/08 semis; 08/09 quarters; **28.** Gary McAllister after his spot-kick v Barcelona at Anfield in the UEFA Cup semi-final; **29.** Real Madrid last season – 3-0 in the Champions League group game; **30.** He had one eye. In his autobiography Kenny writes: 'It was a magnificent achievement to play with such a handicap. It can't have been that off-putting for me in the second leg – I scored in a 3-0 win"; **31.** Michael Owen v FC Haka (Finland) in 2001; **32.** Above the bar in The Falcon pub in Kirkby – Phil Thompson's local; **33.** Roma at Anfield in the 2000/01 UEFA Cup fourth-round second leg – when there was a mosaic on the Kop for the great Bob Paisley; **34.** A large hammer. "It fell on my foot and broke my toe as I was doing some work in the garden at home," said Tommy. "But I still got a medal because I'd played in four of the previous ties, including the semi-final"; **35.** Udinese in the 2012/13 Europa League; Fiorentina in the 2009/10 Champions League; Roma in the 2000/01 UEFA Cup; and Genoa in the 1991/92 UEFA Cup; **36.** Dundee United; **37.** Alan Hansen; **38.** Fernando Morientes for Real Madrid v Bayer Leverkusen in 2002 and for Monaco v Porto in 2004; **39.** Karl-Heinz Riedle for Borussia Dortmund v Juventus in 1997; **40.** The 1960 European Cup final when Real Madrid beat Eintracht Frankfurt 7-3; **41.** Dean Saunders v Kuusysi Lahti in the 1991/92 UEFA Cup; **42.** False – Moreno did play for Sevilla in the 2014 final, but Skrtel left Zenit St Petersburg for Anfield in the 2008 January transfer window before their final win over Rangers in Manchester; **43.** David Fairclough after his winner v St Etienne in the 1977 European Cup; **44.** Trabzonspor. European spy Tom Saunders later recounted: "The hotel had chickens running around it and the food had been cooked on charcoal and burnt black"; **45.** Johan and Jordi Cruyff – for Barcelona and in 1976 and Alaves in 2001; **46.** Yes – to Athletic Clube Bilbao in the first round of the 1968/69 Fair Cup.

ISTANBUL

47. Spain – it was Manuel Enrique Mejuto Gonzalez; **48.** Hernan Crespo played for Chelsea before and Andriy Shevchenko afterwards; **49.** Djimi Traore; **50.** Depends where you where – in Istanbul it was well past midnight but Turkey is two hours ahead of the UK where it was 10.45pm; **51.** Six minutes; **52.** Didi Hamann; **53.** Andrea Pirlo and Shevchenko; **54.** Scott Carson, Josemi, Antonia Nunez and Igor Biscan; **55.** Steve Finnan, Jamie Carragher, Xabi Alonso, John Arne Riise, Steven Gerrard; **56.** CSKA Moscow; **57.** Milan's Andrea Pirlo.

HOW DID YOU SCORE?

Over 50: Ever since you rowed to Reykjavik in that cast-iron bath back in August 1964 it's been your life's mission to follow the mighty Reds in Europe, home and away. Either that or you texted your mate in the pub toilet during the break.

More than 30: Decent. To your credit you've attended at least one European final involving the Reds and you can still feel the dent from your mam's soup pan when you were expelled for sagging off school to go to Istanbul.

Below 30: You're reading the wrong magazine, supporting the wrong club, and probably wearing the wrong trousers.



A winter's tale

December 1966 and a misty morning after the matchday before. This evocative image of the old Spion Kop shows a young member of Anfield's groundstaff sweeping the steps of the famous terrace. Bill Shankly's Reds were reigning champions. The new Kop roof here had only recently been completed. And it was three years since *You'll Never Walk Alone* had topped the charts. Having developed a reputation as a place of not just sporting passion and pilgrimage but wit and wisdom, the Kop had become world-famous.





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Neil Mellor

Strikers thrive on confidence – and confidence comes from scoring goals

Danny Ings has brought a work-ethic to the Liverpool team that we haven't seen since Luis Suarez was at the club. I'm not directly comparing Ings to Suarez, but Liverpool fans have always responded to strikers who put in a shift, and that's exactly what he does every time he wears the red shirt.

Hard work is infectious: it spreads around a football team very quickly. All of a sudden you can go from being not quite at it, to being right at it simply because a striker is running his socks off.

It was always said at Liverpool that you defend from the front, but we haven't really had that since Suarez left the club. That has changed with Ings coming in. He has also shown that he is an attacking threat. Liverpool scored three goals in a game for the first time since February when he played alongside Daniel Sturridge against Aston Villa. That was no co-incidence. We had two players upfront who are goalscorers and will always get into the positions to get opportunities.

It also suits Philippe Coutinho to have them in the team. If you want Coutinho to have a real influence in a game it is important to have movement in-behind defences. With Sturridge and Ings in the side I think we'll see Coutinho become even more influential because he has a choice of runs to pick out. People may question whether two forwards who want the same type of service can play together – they can with the right players behind them. Having a creative midfielder in Coutinho, who is obviously capable of playing killer-passes, operating in the space behind can ensure all three players flourish.

"Hard work is infectious, it spreads round the rest of the team fast"



Ings... goal!

Sturridge, of course, is only just returning from a long-term injury and as an explosive player he needs to be sharp to be at his best. To expect him to score two goals every week, as he did against Villa, would be unrealistic. He is a player that can offer Liverpool so much, but it will take him time to be consistently at his best having missed so much football.

Christian Benteke is currently sidelined with an injury, but when he returns it will give Brendan Rodgers the kind of different options upfront that a manager desires. Given the right service, Benteke is very capable of getting goals himself – look at his bicycle-kick against Manchester United – and I'm sure he will feature regularly when fit.

The striker with the toughest task is Divock Origi. He's a 20-year-old Belgian international who has shown what he is capable of in a World Cup. But it will take time for him to settle and adjust. Origi is competing with Sturridge and two new signings in Benteke and Ings who already have Premier League experience. Both of them played in struggling sides last season and proved they can do the business in front of goal.

Strikers thrive when they are confident and goals give you confidence, so that has helped to propel Ings ahead of Origi in the pecking order. He is playing, working hard, scoring goals and is enjoying himself in a red shirt. Danny Ings looks like a truly confident player at the moment, a lad who is getting the best out of himself, and that can only be good news for Liverpool.

Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33


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LFC in the community plus official merchandise and the LFCSC members

It's striker Divock Origi looking rather cool in an LFC Crew Neck Sweat, now available from the club's official stores and online along with the new Autumn/Winter range – but we want to know from which club the young Belgian was signed by OSC Lille? You'll find the answer on p98.

MAKING A STAND

The latest shots of Anfield show the framework of the redeveloped Main Stand clearly taking shape

The arching truss of the new roof can be seen from all corners of Merseyside and beyond as work on the redevelopment of Anfield's Main Stand continues apace. The new upper tier has visibly taken shape since the start of September with the first section of concrete terracing installed. When construction is complete the redeveloped stand is set to comprise three tiers, with the upper level seating more than 7,500 fans on matchdays. Here are some of the best new shots to whet the appetite.





Stadium timeline

1884 Anfield is opened for business as a football venue.
1884 Everton FC beat Earlstown 5-0 in the first match.
1889 The original stand on Oakfield Road is replaced.
1891 Everton vacate Anfield after a row over rent.
1892 Liverpool Football Club is formed by John Houlding; the team beat Rotherham 7-1 in their first game.
1893 First league match: Liverpool FC beat Lincoln 4-0.
1895 A new 3,000-seater 'grandstand' is built.
1903 Another stand is constructed at the Anfield Road end.
1906 The Spion Kop is constructed.
1928 The Kop is redesigned with a roof to hold 30,000.
1952 A record 61,905 at Anfield watch Liverpool vs Wolves.
1957 Floodlights are installed and used for the first time.
1963 A new cantilevered stand is built on Kemlyn Road.
1965 The Anfield Road stand is rebuilt and given a roof.
1973 The Main Stand undergoes an extensive redesign.
1973 A record highest average attendance at Anfield of 48,127 is set.
1980 Seats are installed to replace terracing in the Paddock under the Main Stand.
1982 Seats are installed at the Anfield Road end; Shankly Gates are erected in tribute to legendary manager Bill Shankly.
1987 A police room is added to the Kemlyn Road stand.
1992 The Kemlyn Road is replaced by the Centenary Stand.
1994 The Kop is rebuilt and becomes all-seater.
1997 A bronze statue of Bill Shankly is unveiled outside the Spion Kop.
1998 A second tier is built on the Anfield Road stand.
1999 The Bob Paisley Gateway is officially opened.
2003 The scoreboard is added in the corner between the Centenary Stand and the Kop.
2012 The club announces redevelopment of Anfield, its 'spiritual home', starting with Main Stand.





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NEVER TALK ALONE


Honorary President: Karen Gill

Who's who on this season's Liverpool FC Supporters Committee

The Liverpool FC Supporters Committee was set up to help improve communications between fans and the club, and its various members (including new appointments from this season) represent all of the major constituencies among the supporter base. Contact details are at liverpoolfc.com/fans/supporters-committee. You can also follow us on Twitter @LFCSupCom.


Fans who attend away games: Anna Burgess


Supporters Under 25: Bella Ainsworth


Fans in the Merseyside area: Graham Smith


Family Match Goers: Ian Byrne


Female Fans: Tara Fisher


Disabled Supporters: Katie Price


Official Supporters' Clubs: Lee Foley


Season Ticket Holders and Hospitality: Tony Fitzgerald


Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Supporters: Yunus Lunat


International fans: Matthew Selby


LGBT Supporters: Paul Amann





REDS PLAY GULF

Liverpool FC to launch brand new international academy for United Arab Emirates

Liverpool Football Club has announced the forthcoming launch of its first full-time coaching project in the United Arab Emirates.

In partnership with PESCO, a Dubai-based sports and events management company, the club will deliver ongoing player-development programmes to youngsters within a network of schools in the country. Initially focusing upon schools in Dubai, it will officially start from October 2015 and provide a unique opportunity for young players to learn to play 'The Liverpool Way'.

The project will provide youngsters between the ages of seven and 15 with the opportunity to improve their football skills and develop in the technical, tactical, physical and social aspects of the game through age-specific coaching sessions. Through the unique coaching methods of Liverpool FC, there will also be a focus upon improving key life-skills of the young participants, including teamwork, confidence, motivation and communication.

Reds legend Ian Rush, an LFC ambassador says: "This project is a great opportunity for the club to positively influence the game in the UAE. On all our projects we aim to develop players both on and off the pitch and this partnership is no different. The young players will have a fantastic experience on this programme and will be taught the fundamental skills of the game by Liverpool FC coaches. Our international academies enable us to bring the club closer to our young fans around the world and we're set to do just that with this project in Dubai."

PESCO programme director Nisal Mohammed adds: "We are thrilled to have partnered with Liverpool FC to bring the very best coaching programmes to the young players in the UAE. We are now in the process of shortlisting schools based on the interest shown by them.

"We are also hugely excited by the opportunity to deliver the club's coaching philosophy and practices with the help of the experienced Liverpool FC coaches who will be working on this project. There's huge potential for an initiative like this in the UAE and we can't wait to get started."



A chance for youngsters to learn 'The Liverpool Way'





ONE IN A

All-Star Charity Match at Anfield recognised at prestigious awards ceremony

The Foundation's Liverpool All-Star Charity Game has been named Community Event of the Year during a glittering ceremony at the annual Echo Pride of Merseyside Awards. Last Easter's collaboration between the club, Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher, brought together an elite group of players – including Luis Suarez and Fernando Torres – from across the world to compete in the match at Anfield.

Tickets for the event sold out within three hours of going on sale. Andrea Cooper, head of the Liverpool FC Foundation said: "It's fantastic to be recognised for work which inspires people from all walks of life to make positive change happen for themselves and their communities."

The Foundation's initial aim was to raise a figure of £500,000, but the star-studded event smashed this target by raising £1 million. As a result the following amounts were donated to local charities: Alder Hey Children's Charity £250k; Cash for Kids £50k; Centre 56 £50k; Claire House Children's Hospice £50k; Positive Futures North Liverpool £50K.

Liverpool FC Foundation received 50 per cent of total funds raised which it will use to expand and maintain its programmes to increase sporting participation, improve life chances, inspire social action and support other charities. The event was hailed as 'ambitious' and 'impactful' by voters.

Academy reward for Kicks and Vets

The Foundation recently held an event combining its Military Veterans programme with the popular Kicks initiative, to provide a joint-coaching session. Coaches from Kicks worked with the Veterans and some recently-qualified FA Veterans, putting on a session for 20 Kicks participants from Birkenhead and Toxteth. The sessions work closely with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service and act as an intervention in areas where there are problems with anti-social behaviour. They provided a structured session followed by a five-a-side tournament in the surroundings of the LFC Academy.

MILLION

The only way is up



Sunday 6 September 2015 saw Liverpool FC Foundation's first-ever Walk Of 100 Men: an invitation to take part in a trip to Moel Famau in partnership with Breckfield North Everton Neighbourhood Council. As part of the initiative, which is funded by the Community Covenant, the trip saw previously inactive men visit a place close to many Scouse hearts: Moel Famau, the highest hill within the Clwydian Range, is not too far from Colomendy. In partnership with Laughterhouse Comedy, the walkers were joined by local funnymen Chris Cairns and Phil Chapman throughout the ascent.

Since 2005 the Foundation's Men's Health programme has been encouraging men to adopt lifestyle choices that help to promote a longer life and general well-being. It works with local men to raise awareness of the health issues that they face as well as offering encouragement and support to put new skills and knowledge into practice.

LIVERPOOL FC FOUNDATION IS THE OFFICIAL CHARITY OF LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB. WE DELIVER A RANGE OF INITIATIVES THAT INSPIRE PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE TO MAKE POSITIVE CHANGE HAPPEN FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES. FOLLOW US ON TWITTER @LFCFOUNDATION



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John on the right in the LFC dugout in the late 1980s

JOHN BENNISON

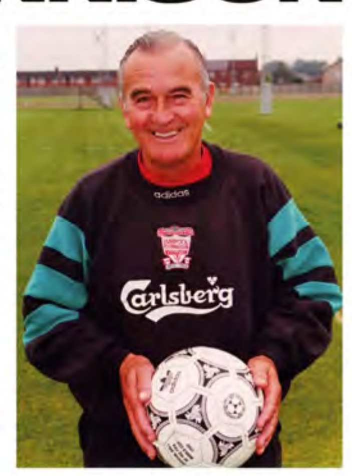
A member of the team behind the team. It's a good way to sum up John Bennison. He was a Boot Room boy who did his work behind the scenes, out of the spotlight, away from the glare of the media. We sadly lost this loyal, well-liked Liverpool Football Club servant, at the age of 88, in September.

Hailing from the Dingle area of Liverpool, 'Benno' was an inside-right during his playing days. He joined Liverpool as an amateur in 1944 but never made a first-team appearance for the club, instead going on to play for local non-league sides South Liverpool, Prescot Cables and Earle. He also had a spell at Flint Town. He pursued a coaching career and in 1970 returned to Liverpool to take a part-time role as assistant youth-development officer to Tom Saunders, while also working for electrical company Manweb. It paved the way for him to become a member of the famous Anfield Boot Room.

When Bill Shankly retired in 1974 and Bob Paisley took over as manager, a coaching staff reshuffle saw John offered the position of assistant reserve-team manager, working under Roy Evans. He later assisted Chris Lawler and Phil Thompson when they took charge of the reserves and remained involved with the club until his retirement in 1993.

"John did a great job for Liverpool Football Club as part of the youth set-up," said Evans as he paid tribute to his mate. "It was a role that sometimes goes unnoticed with the supporters, but if you look at the players who come through to play for the first team working under John that is a tribute to how good these people were at their job. John was a smashing fella. He was always there to help, not just with the coaching side of things, but he also helped on the outside as well. He will be sadly missed."

John's son Colin added: "Football was always dad's life, both as a player and then a coach. Even when he retired he'd still spend his days talking to people about the game. He'll be greatly missed by everyone who knew him."



QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p5: The original Spion Kop was constructed at Anfield way back in 1906... FOOTBALL p23: Reds goalkeeper Adam Bogdan saved three of Carlisle United's spot-kicks in the dramatic finale to the Capital One Cup tie – from Danny Grainger, Luke Joyce and Bastien Hery... CLUB p63: Divock Origi was signed by OSC Lille from Belgian club KRC Genk in 2010.